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Champion

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Student making a name in Hollywood

E-cig ban for council buildings

MAN DIES IN CAR CRASH DAYS BEFORE BIRTHDAY

Police issue fresh appeal for information about head–on collision

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

DETECTIVES investigating a fatal collision in which a Skelmersdale man died just days before his 47th birthday have issued a fresh appeal for information.

The incident happened at around 6pm on Tuesday, January 6 on the A570 Southport Road, Scarisbrick, near to The Villa Café when a Peugeot Horizon and a Toyota Carina were involved in a head–on collision.

It is believed that a grey BMW was involved in an overtake manoeuvre, causing the other two vehicles to collide, before driving off towards the direction of Southport.

The passenger in the Peugeot, 46–year–old Andrew Birch from Skelmersdale, suffered multiple injuries and was taken to Southport Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. His 80–year–old mother who was driving sustained serious injuries and remains in Aintree Hospital.

Andrew Birch

A 41–year–old woman from Scarisbrick who was driving the Toyota was taken to Aintree Hospital with serious injuries where she remains in an extremely poorly condition. Her 15–year–old son was taken to hospital with minor injuries and has since been released.

Both families continue to be supported by specially–trained officers.

A major investigation has been launched and officers are continuing to conduct house–to–house enquiries, CCTV examination and forensic analysis.

Between 5.30 and 6.30pm yesterday (Tuesday, January 13) officers were set to carry out a roadside appeal close to the site of the collision with occupants of vehicles being asked to fill in questionnaires and given leaflets appealing for information about the collision.

Detectives are also keen to trace a woman who was seen walking her dog at around the time of the collision and are appealing for her to come forward.

DCI Andy Hulme of the Force Major Investigation Team said: "Although we are

• *Continued inside*

Appeal for information after 'vicious assault'

POLICE are appealing for information following a vicious assault on a man in Skelmersdale on Monday evening (January 12).

The 27–year–old victim walked through the subway from Pimbo Industrial Estate towards Alderley at around 9.30pm then turned left on to the footpath that leads down towards Whiteledge Road where the attack took place.

It is believed his assailants struck him with baseball bats and slashed at his lower back, calf and hands with a knife.

He was taken to hospital where he was treated for the wounds and a broken arm and fingers and where he is still recovering.

Serious injuries

Detective Sergeant Higham from Skelmersdale CID said: "This was a vicious assault on a man who has ended up having to be treated for some quite serious injuries in hospital.

"I am appealing for anyone who may have witnessed anything or who has any information about this at all to get in contact."

Anyone with information can contact Lancashire Police on 101 quoting log number 1269 of January 12 .

Alternatively, they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at Crimestoppers–uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not have to go to court.

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Trust campaign to recruit more nurses

Report by **Henry James**

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has launched a campaign to recruit more nurses.

The trust has vacancies in general medicine, surgery and community, as well as for nurses with specialist experience in anaesthetics and spinal injuries.

Angela Kelly, interim director of nursing and quality at the trust, said: "The trust uses some brilliant agency nurses but we need a big injection of staff nurses who work only for us.

"We have opportunities for nurses starting their NHS career, nurses wanting to return to practice and nurses looking to make that next move.

"What counts is that you're passionate about giving high–quality compassionate care and share our values.

"We also offer flexible working arrangements, a supportive structured 18–month preceptorship for newly–qualified nurses and a development programme for experienced nurses."

The trust recently recruited 10 nurses from Romania to start in February who will join nurses from Portugal who arrived at Southport hospital in summer 2013.

Angela said: "Many of the Portuguese nurses have stayed with us and become valued members of staff. We were equally impressed with the quality of the candidates we interviewed in Romania.

"Recruiting nurses is tremendously challenging for all NHS organisations but I believe we offer something special that makes this trust particularly appealing.

"Southport and Ormskirk was among the first NHS trusts to offer truly integrated care to patients with community nursing teams leading the way in shaping, challenging and championing care delivered in the community.

"It works for our patients because many of them now get to stay at home and stay out of hospital, and it works for our nurses because the job is more rewarding as a result."

Nurses interested in finding out more can contact Angela on 01704 705255 or Carol Fowler, interim assistant director of nursing, at carol.fowler@nhs.net for information about the trust, the Nurse Workforce Strategy, the wards and departments and how the trust progresses and develops nursing skills and careers.

Interviews will be held on Friday, January 30.

Angela Kelly **Code NA**

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Advertising Feature

Pensions on divorce

Family law is ever changing, and one of the biggest shake ups we family solicitors have seen recently is about to come into force, and it turns out that it is as a result of George Osborne's pension reforms, and not strictly a piece of matrimonial law at all.

As has been widely commented upon in the financial press, in future it will be possible to use your pension fund, once you reach retirement age, akin to a bank account. No longer will you be forced to purchase an annuity, but instead will be able to draw capital from a pension, subject to your prevailing income tax obligations. This means that pensioners are being put in control of their own asset, to do with as they choose.

Most commentators have welcomed this change, because of the flexibility that it gives. However, it has largely gone unremarked upon that this will have a fundamental effect on how divorcing couples can manage their affairs too. Any size of pension pot is always a relevant consideration to the court, and will be taken into account when dividing marital assets. However, with younger couples the court is still likely to give the non-pension holder other assets in lieu of a share of the other's pension.

However, the older one becomes, and the closer to retirement date, (which might be as early as 55 years of age) the more relevant the pension asset becomes. A pension is often the most significant marital asset that a couple possess after the house. The funds accrued even after a modest period of time, can be quite considerable. However, up until now pensions were one of the hardest assets to realise capital from. Now family courts will be able to use the pension fund in ever more imaginative ways to settle couple's needs, and provide capital when it is needed in a more tax efficient way.

It leaves far more options to divorcing couples than were available to them, and is an unexpected consequence to a piece of pension's legislation.

To obtain specialist tailored advice about how the reforms may affect you, telephone to arrange an appointment to see me.

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Mum's concerns over memorial garden

Report by **Henry James**

Glenburn consultation prompts fears for future of tribute to son

A CONCERNED Skelmersdale mother is worried about the future of her son's memorial garden in the grounds of Glenburn Sports College, which is threatened with closure

Jackie Ashcroft met with West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper to discuss her concerns about what could happen to the garden, created in memory of her son, Alan, in light of the consultation on the future of the school.

Alan, passed away in 2004 aged just 14.

Both he and his sister Amy attended Glenburn and Amy designed the memorial garden that was built and officially opened in 2006 located in the central schoolyard on the site.

UNCERTAINTY

Jackie Ashcroft said: "Glenburn Sports College holds a special place in our family. They have always provided fantastic support to our children and our entire family.

"The memorial garden is the place we go to remember Alan. It is comforting to know we have a place close–by to remember Alan. On his birthday and the anniversary of his passing we place flowers there.

"It is deeply upsetting that we are now faced with the consultation on the future of the school and the uncertainty over Alan's memorial garden."

Rosie Cooper and Jackie Ashcroft at the remembrance garden

Rosie Cooper said: "Having met with Jackie, I know how sensitive and important the memorial garden is to the Ashcroft family and to everyone who knew Alan.

"Having this memorial garden is another demonstration of how Glenburn Sports College is at the very heart of the community it serves.

"I have written to Lancashire County Council to raise Jackie's concerns and to ensure that Alan Ashcroft's memorial garden and his memory is not forgotten in this consultation on the future of the school."

Bob Stott, Lancashire County Council's director for education, responded: "I can understand Mrs Ashcroft's concern about what might happen to the memorial garden for her son, should Glenburn close.

"We are still at an early stage of the process and no decision has been taken about the future of the school, let alone the site.

"However, I can reassure Mrs Ashcroft that whatever decision is taken, her son's memorial garden will be treated sensitively and we wouldn't do anything without talking to her first."

henry.james@champnews.com

Skem man killed in crash days before his birthday

• continued from Page 1

"making good progress with our enquiries so far, we are still appealing to the public for their help.

"We still want to hear from anyone who may have any information about the collision that could assist with our investigation. If anybody uses the road on a regular basis and has seen a grey–coloured BMW being driven in an erratic manner we would urge them to come forward.

"In addition, we are particularly keen to trace a woman who was seen walking what was described as a husky dog around the time of the collision. She may hold vital information and I would urge her, if she sees this appeal, to come forward and speak to us.

"As a result of this collision, Andrew Birch lost his life just days before his 47th birthday and two women have suffered serious injuries. It has had a devastating impact on the families of all those involved and if anyone has any information about what happened then please do contact us on 101."

A 56–year–old man from Southport has been arrested on suspicion on causing death by dangerous driving and is currently in custody.

Last week a 29–year–old man from Southport was also arrested in connection with the incident and has been bailed until March. Two other men, aged 22 and 24 both from Liverpool, were also arrested but released with no further action.

Anyone with information can contact Lancashire Police on 101.

Alternatively, they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at Crimestoppers–uk.org.

Class act!

STAFF and pupils at a Skelmersdale school are celebrating after earning top marks in key subjects.

Cobbs Brow Primary has been recognised by the Basic Skills Agency for its "high–quality provision, practice and performance" in English and Maths.

The school, in Manfield, Ashurst, was awarded the Primary Quality Mark celebrating and acknowledging the continuous improvement and practice in English and Maths across the school.

Headteacher, Annette Hirst, said: "The children and staff were delighted to have been recognised for the high standards throughout the school."

Cobbs Brow primary school headteacher Annette Hirst with staff and pupils celebrating their latest Quality Mark award. Code1076017

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Residents urged to access heating helpline

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

WEST Lancs MP Rose Cooper is urging residents in the borough to access a helpline that can advise them if they are eligible for funding to keep their homes warm this winter.

Research by the Home Heat Helpline shows 600 West Lancashire households are eligible for help from energy companies this winter and they are encouraging people to find out what they could be entitled to.

The independent helpline offers advice on energy efficiency and switching suppliers, as well as eligibility for financial support from individual energy suppliers.

Households that may qualify include those in certain 'deprived' areas, as well as low–income pensioners, disadvantaged families with children or those with a disability living in a rural area.

Rosie Cooper said: "Many people may not know where to turn for free advice on keeping their homes warm. One of the best ways for people in West Lancashire to stay warm this winter is to act now and call the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99 to see if they're eligible for help."

Lawrence Slade, chief operating officer at Home Heat Helpline, said: "The research speaks for itself – an astounding 3.2 million households in Britain are entitled to home heating help. As we're now in winter, we are urging people to make a free, confidential call to the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99."

Rosie Cooper

Council rents set to increase by 2.2% for 2015–16

Report by **Henry James**

RENTS for West Lancs Council tenants are set to increase by 2.2% for the 2015–16 financial year.

The council's cabinet were scheduled to discuss the issue at a meeting last night (Tuesday, January 13).

In a report for the meeting, officers explain how they arrived at the figure. This is based on the government's rent restructuring guidance which says rents should be set at the Consumer Price Index from September 2014 – which the Office of National Statistics reports was 1.2% – plus 1%.

The council has to set a budget for its housing account before the beginning of the financial year.

In the report, council officers write: "The budget that is set must enable council and tenant priorities to be delivered but must also be affordable."

IMPACT

Officers also believe Universal Credit, which is being rolled out to West Lancashire as part of the government's welfare reform agenda, could have an impact on rent collection rates and they plan to monitor this situation "closely."

Service charges are also to increase by 2.2% in the next financial year, in line with the rent increase.

Officers defend this decision by stating: "A general principle is applied to service charges that they should be calculated to ensure that they are sufficient to recover the cost of services provided to tenants."

The council are reviewing leasehold service charges and are proposing to consult with leaseholders on proposed changes during 2015–16.

Heating charges are to be reviewed as well.

No increase was made to district heating charges in 2014–15 "due to the favourable state of the heating charge account".

The council want to review district heating charges again in autumn 2015 and will make a report public to cabinet when it is finished.

Rent charges on garages that have been improved will also increase by 2.2% next year. The council has said that because of the "relatively low level" of garages that are let, charges have not been increased for several years.

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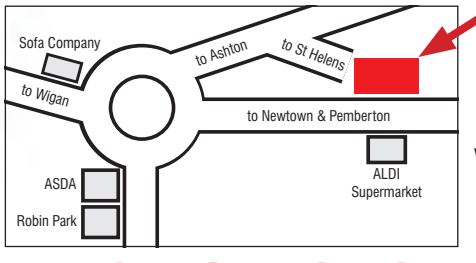

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Ceramics ace Jade is in demand in Hollywood!

Report by **Henry James**

A SKELMERSDALE student who specialises in combining 3D printing with ceramics is breaking the mould by making a name for herself in Hollywood!

Jade Crompton's 3D printing and ceramic casting technique is earning her critical acclaim and her work is now in demand in the USA.

But instead of shipping hundreds of boxes of ceramics to the Hollywood 3D Printing Gallery, who contacted her after seeing images of her work on Twitter, 23–year–old Jade student simply clicks a button.

Jade studied at Wigan and Leigh College before taking a BA at Liverpool Hope University, where she is also studying for her MA in creative practice and is a graduate assistant.

She explained: "While I will be sending the gallery some of the finished ceramic pieces, I will also send them the design files of my work, which they can print out on their own 3D printers – in a choice of plastics – and sell to customers. It is a new way of selling work but it is becoming more popular."

Jade's inventive technique involves designing moulds using CorelDraw and Solidworks and then printing them on a 3D printer. She then uses the mould for traditional ceramic slip casting techniques.

She also casts moulds from laser–cut Perspex and often combines both kinds of mould in her collection which includes lamps, vases, fruit bowls, cups and sculptures.

Jade's use of 3D printing began as a problem–solving technique during her undergraduate degree.

"I was using rock and ice formations as inspiration and I needed to find a way to create the geometrical lines that you see in these structures. Making such a precise mould by hand and out of plaster was going to be incredibly time–consuming.

"You can 3D–print in ceramics but it's very costly, so I decided to try and print a mould using a Z–Corp powder printer."

Philip Cotton, founder of 3D FileMarket.com has written that Jade's technique is "exceptional in terms of innovation" and that her work is "an example of how in the right hands, 3D printing is a powerful creative tool for innovation."

Jade at work

Jade's work has appeared on the 3D Printing Association website and she is hoping to exhibit at the 3D Print Show next year. She has also been approached by a company to design a chess set using her techniques.

Jade's full collection can be viewed at http://www.jadecromptonceramics.co.uk/

Crowning glory for town's toilet twinners

Prestigious 'world first' award is recognition of efforts to help flush poverty away

Report by **Henry James**

SKELMERSDALE is about to be crowned the world's first Toilet Twinned Town – in recognition of "tireless fundraising"" in the throne room!

The town has picked up the prestigious award after topping the charts for UK towns pulling together to flush away poverty by twinning local toilets with latrines in poor countries.

The accolade is to be awarded on Sunday (January 18) by the charity initiative Toilet Twinning, which encourages people to 'twin their loo' and fund a latrine in a poor country.

Skem has long been on a 'roll'. For several years now, local churches, schools, companies and community groups have been twinning not only their own toilets, but also other people's, through what they call 'guerrilla twinning'. Once a toilet is twinned, it receives a certificate with its twin's photo and GPS co–ordinates.

Driving force behind the Toilet Twinning revolution locally and head of Skem's own 'Privy Council' has been Revered Chris Spittle, vicar of St Paul's Church.

He said: "Toilet Twinning has really captured the imagination of the churches in Skem and those whom we've shared the idea with have loved it too.

"It's been great to see churches, schools, care homes, businesses, shops, pubs, community centres, our mayor and MP all agreeing to receive a toilet twin. It's a fun way to make a difference and tackle a really serious global issue."

Rev Spittle first introduced his church to Toilet Twinning during harvest in 2011 and set them a target of twinning all four toilets in the church, using a toilet as a collecting bowl. In fact, they far exceeded their goal, raising enough to twin two latrines and two school toilet blocks in Burundi.

Reverend Chris Spittle driving force behind the toilet twinning efforts

Since then, they have twinned toilets in many local venues, as selected in a church members' ballot. These include a local supermarket, The Jungle soft play area, the Greenhill Community Centre and three local primary schools.

They have also presented twinning certificates to West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper and the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Doreen Stephenson.

Oaks, a sister congregation in the Tanhouse area, has also twinned its own toilet and several others.

Early in 2014 Rev Spittle promoted Toilet Twinning more widely, to other Churches Together congregations, sparking a toilet chain reaction which resulted in many toilet twins across town.

Toilet Twinning CEO Lorraine Kingsley will present the Toilet Twinned Town award at a special gathering of churches, clergy, civic officials and toilet twinners on Sunday (January 18) at the Ecumenical Centre, Northway. She said the accolade had been created to recognise those communities who went above and beyond in their fundraising.

"We have singled out Skelmersdale for this award, the first in our five–year history, because so many different groups and individuals came together as a community to help flush away poverty," said Lorraine. "It's very much how we work abroad too, bringing people together to make change happen.

"We joke about loos but toilets are literally lifesavers in the places where we work. Skem can be proud that its twins have changed many lives. It's set the bar very high for other fundraising towns."

Fancy a spot of poetry?

ANYONE interested in buying a copy of poetry book, Loss, Hope, Love and Life, written by Leonard O'Toole from Old Skelmersdale and featured in the Champion last week, can call him on 07931155996.

Leonard had the book published six months after attending a West Lancs writing event which he had read about in the Champ.

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Council 'no smoking' policy to include e–cigs

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council is planning to introduce a new policy banning the use of e–cigarettes in buildings operated by the authority.

Although, obviously, the ban would not apply to people smoking the cigarettes within their own council–owned residential properties, tenants and council employees will not be able to use them in shared corridors, hallways and landings.

Officers at the council have decided to review their smoking policy with the reasons for the decision outlined in a council report.

They wrote: "Smoking habits and attitudes to smoking have changed. In more recent years, the awareness and use of products known as electronic cigarettes (e–cigarettes) has increased significantly."

The council's smoking policy was last reviewed in 2006.

The proposed new policy, to be enforced by heads of service, was due to be discussed at a meeting of the council cabinet last night (Tuesday, January 13).

It covers all council buildings, including communal areas in sheltered housing schemes.

In sheltered housing residents and employees will be able to use e–cigarettes within their own living accommodation.

However, the new policy will apply to all elected members, council employees, contractors and visitors.

The 'No Smoking' signage currently used in council buildings will now also include e–cigarettes.

The council have also said that e–cigarettes should not be smoked at any time in vehicles owned by the council.

West Lancs Council is planning to to ban the use of e–cigarettes in its buildings

E–cigarette use breaks will also not be allowed and those employees who use them during work in open space (e.g. grounds maintenance staff) will be persuaded to reduce their use.

The council say they have decided to introduce an e–cigarette policy for a number of reasons.

These include the fact that they are not licensed as a medicine, there have been issues around their safe usage and to recognise the promotion of a good role model for children.

They also believe the new policy will promote a healthy working environment and address the problem of distinguishing them from tobacco cigarettes which can make enforcing policies a problem.

Meanwhile, all applicants for jobs with the council will be made aware of the policy by the authority's human resources team.

And the council has said that employees not complying with the policy will face disciplinary action and repeat offenders will be sacked.

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Family say damaged kitchen ceiling 'ruined Christmas'

Report by **Henry James**

A FAMILY claim their Christmas was ruined when plaster began to fall from the recently–decorated kitchen in their council home just days before December 25 leaving them unable to use it.

And when the repair wasn't done to their satisfaction it prompted a dispute which led to the police being called and the family allegedly threatened with eviction.

Nicola Boulton was cooking in the kitchen of her home in Ennerdale, Skelmersdale on Tuesday, December 23 when a piece of plaster, which she says measured about four metres square, fell on to her foot causing it to bleed, with bits also falling on her head and into her food.

After reporting it to the council a building surveyor went round the same day to assess the problem and said work needed to be done as the ceiling was unsafe.

Contractors then turned up and partially fixed the problem but did not finish the job.

Nicola's partner, John Robinson, insisted the work needed to be completed then and blocked the contractors' vehicle in the driveway with his own car.

The contractors called the police and the workmen were allowed to leave without doing any further work.

The family say they have since been threatened with eviction by the council.

John Robinson surveys the damage to the family's kitchen ceiling

Mr Robinson fumed: "The kitchen was only decorated three months ago so how can this happen? A building surveyor has been out and said it's not safe but how come the council could not fix it over Christmas? They are useless and just not interested.

"This ruined our Christmas as the kitchen wasn't safe and it was a mess. My partner was frightened to go in there in case anything else happened to her."

A spokesman for West Lancs Council told the Champion: "The council received a report on Tuesday, December 23 regarding a problem with the kitchen ceiling. Our surveyor visited later that morning and identified a two–metre square area of plaster to be replaced.

"An emergency repair request was subsequently issued to our maintenance contractor to make safe the ceiling, which was completed the same day.

"A mutually–convenient appointment has now been made with our tenant to complete the reinstatement works.

"The council understands that our visit on December 23 didn't meet expectations that a full repair would be carried out immediately."

The spokesman said that the council could not comment on the alleged eviction threat as the matter was "confidential" but added: "We can't accept any intimidation of council staff or other representatives working on our behalf, and will take any such attempts very seriously as they constitute a breach of tenancy agreement and proportionate action will be taken."

Fund boost for sporting project

SKELMERSDALE Action for Youth (SAY) has received funding from the Positive Activities Programme to provide a range of sports.

The scheme will last for 26 weeks and the group was chosen for funding because of their proven track record of working with young people.

Sports and activities to be offered include swimming, street dancing, keep–fit, kurling, crown green bowling, turfboarding, sledging, Zumba and canoeing.

Alan Lewis from SAY said: "The idea of these sessions is to encourage young people who do not usually take part in any positive activities to sign up. The project is for young people aged between five and 18, both able–bodied and disabled, male and female. We are also looking for volunteer helpers.

"This project is a great way of helping to address boredom, and anti–social behaviour. It will also reduce crime and develop physical fitness through positive exercise.

The activities aim to build confidence, self–esteem and break down barriers between the police and young people – and best of all it's free."

SAY are also running 100 and 200–hour volunteer schemes for young people with the Artz Centre.

For more information ring 07939660048.

Daniel's on song for Twinkle House

A DISABLED man from Skelmersdale who used Twinkle House as a youngster raised more than £130 for the charity by performing Christmas songs at the Concourse shopping centre.

Daniel Waite, who is now a Young Ambassador for Twinkle House, said: "It was a pleasure to raise funds for this fantastic local charity where I was supported for three years. I wish to thank the people of Skelmersdale for turning out to join me."

He also thanked Diane Fletcher, assistant manager at the Concourse for giving him the opportunity to perform there.

Twinkle House in Gillibrands provides sensory–based services for disabled young people.

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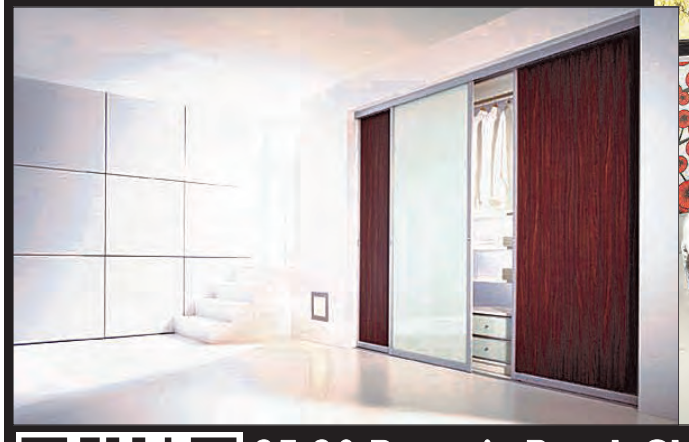

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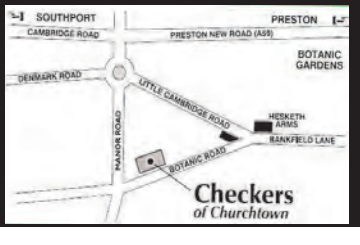

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Support event for budding businesses

Award–winner Kate to be keynote speaker

Report by **Henry James**

THERE is an opportunity to learn how to launch and grow your own company at a business support event being staged later this month at the West Lancashire Investment Centre.

The centre, at Whitemoss Business Park, Skelmersdale near to junction 4 of the M58, will be hosting Let's Talk Start Up and Growth, a free interactive event aimed at anyone thinking about starting or expanding a business in the borough.

The event, on Thursday, January 29 from 4 to 8pm, will feature workshops, exhibitors, advice, opportunities, and networking for those who attend.

Keynote speaker, award–winning businesswoman and charity founder, Kate Hardcastle, will open the event offering advice to people on how they can put the customer at the heart of their business and giving tips on ways to build and grow as a business, no matter what size or type.

Information will also be offered on how to use social media to grow your business and get support for new and high–growth businesses from the Lancashire LEAP programme with two special workshops available.

However, places are limited and due to expected demand must be pre–booked.

In addition to the workshops there will be a range of exhibitors to provide information, including finance experts, advice on trademarks and patents, help on starting a social enterprise, help with recruitment and skills, plus much more.

There will also be a business connections wall where people can post and reply to notices, sorted by industry, plus the chance to network and expand your business contacts.

Kate Hardcastle

Councillor David Westley, leader of West Lancs Council, said: "The Start up and Growth event is a fantastic opportunity for new or established businesses to learn how to improve and expand.

"I recommend anyone from the local area who wants to start or grow their business to go along and enjoy what's on offer."

The event is free but anyone wishing to attend must register in advance. Visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/businessevents or call 01695 712692 to book a place.

If you want to attend any workshops please specify when booking.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Paul a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Shish Kebab	£4.50	£5.50
Shish & Chicken Kebab	£5.40	£6.40
Mixed Kebab Donner Chicken or Donner Shish	£5.40	£6.40
Mixed Grill Kebab Shish, Chicken, Donner Meat and Chips	£8.00	
Chicken Tikka Tandoori	£4.50	£5.50
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6 Pieces Chicken with 2 Fries	£7.10
Half Chicken with Rice	£6.50

EXTRAS

	Reg	Lge
Chips	£1.20	£1.80
Cheese and Chips	£1.80	£2.40
Onion Rings	£1.80	£2.20
Naan Bread, Chips and Extra Cheese		£2.50
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Sporty pupils' bronze award – now for gold!

Some of the sporty pupils at Bishop Martin CE Primary

A PRIMARY school's decision to place greater emphasis on physical education and encouraging a healthier lifestyle has been recognised with a Bronze School Games Award.

Staff at Bishop Martin CE Primary in Skelmersdale believe pupils are reaping the rewards after the recruitment of a specialist PE coach, Jen Tuffs, with an upsurge in the numbers taking part in sporting activities.

Youngsters now access a minimum of two hours 'high–quality' PE provision each week with a mixture of coached sessions by Jen, swimming led by the West Lancashire Swimming Service, extra–curricular activities and sessions delivered in partnership with the West Lancashire School Sports Partnership.

Among the most dramatic improvements is the range of inter–school competitions Bishop Martin has entered since the recruitment of their own sports coach, including football, tag rugby, basketball, handball, athletics and 'High Five' netball.

Since September, 51% of the Key Stage 2 pupils have taken part in an after–school PE club of some kind, while 25% of the juniors have gone on to take part in competitive events against other schools.

There have also been opportunities to get involved in sport at break and lunchtimes with children taking advantage of the school's 'excellent' outdoor sports facilities and two large indoor halls.

Three pupils – James Hailwood and Molly and Louise Simpson – have been selected to represent the West Lancashire District football teams.

Deputy headteacher, Ian McDonald, said: "Winning the bronze award is a real achievement in such a short space of time. Now the school leadership, Jen and the rest of the school community are looking forward to pushing for gold in 2015!"

henry.james@champnews.com

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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These two major problems need sorting now if the NHS is to survive

The NHS is a major news item at the moment.

There are major problems with the NHS that need sorting – now – if the NHS is to survive.

A&E has two major problems.

1. Number of patients arriving for treatment/assesment.

This is aggravated by, in some cases, poor primary care services.

An abysmal out of hours GP locum service is a major contributory factor to this. Patients know that even with a wait of four hours, a visit to A&E is the best way of seeing a doctor.

Even when the 'on call service' do agree to send a doctor to a patient's home, the wait is often lengthy and the frequent outcome is that the doctor instructs the relatives to take the patient to A&E anyway (because he doesn't know the patient and doesn't want to take any responsibility).

The main reason for the failure of the GP out of hours service was the previous government's new GP contract which absolved overall responsibility for patients on their books.

The increased numbers of arrivals at A&E can also be due to the closure of other A&E units in the area (eg. Ormskirk).

2. Not being able to move patients on from A&E after initial treatment.

Most A&E staff respond well in dealing with and prioritising incoming patients. However, difficulty arises after initial treatment in moving treated patients forward onto hospital wards (due in many cases to wards having been closed down) or discharged home or into residential care due to grave shortage of social workers to make necessary arrangements.

This creates the ongoing problem of bedblocking which means that patients who would be able to be moved into a less acute bed are having to be retained on A&E beds and trolleys.

This also affects further patients arriving by ambulance who cannot be handed over by paramedics to hospital staff because no beds (or trolleys) are available and the patient has to remain on the ambulance stretcher meaning the ambulance is unavailable for further work.

Of course, this affects ambulance efficiency causing frequent long delays in dealing with further calls.

Terry Durrance,
by email

Cinema will be no remedy for town's ills – if it ever arrives

RE: The article by Henry James (Champion, December 31) about the Concourse and its vacant shops and the new cinema panacea and Jo Salmon, Concourse manager, pontificating about the effect the new cinema will have on improving vacancy rates (whatever they are).

I don't believe this and wonder where the Concourse owners, London and Cambridge Properties, get this information.

The Cinema is a dead duck before it arrives, if it ever does!

Cinemas are dying due to inflated prices and exaggerated publicity about new films which are blatantly oversold. Also, watching at home is more comfortable and easier on the ear.

The Concourse is a good, cheap shopping centre for a population with high unemployment. An economical facelift would help and as for new tenants, that's easy – reduce the extortionate rents and get the council to reduce the rates.

Finally, for West Lancs Council leader David Wheatley to blame the Concourse "on the way it was built in the 1960s and there is no night–time economy" displays an unbelievable, out–of–touch naivety.

Graham Walker,
Up Holland

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Flags on Southport Promenade made the best of the weekend's bracing winds. Picture by Martyn Snape. Code: 1076105.

Pointless signs on roads to nowhere

SKELMERSDALE'S cul–de–sac system was apparently designed to reduce road traffic.

In ours I estimate that at least 50% of vehicles arriving at the end, turn and drive straight out again – the reason being poor signage.

Our street is a cul–de–sac with five cul–de–sacs within it. Only the entrance to the first part is showing the 'no through road' symbol, itself being inadequate.

Money seems to have been found to install unenforceable 20mph signs but it would have been better spent pointing traffic in the right direction.

Dave Symons,
by email

FA should stick to football and leave laws to Parliament

RE: Mr Whelan, chairman and owner of Wigan Athletic FC being fined by the FA for alleged racist comments, when did the FA give themselves civil powers over and above the courts of the land?

The FA's brief concerns them only with the laws on the playing of the game of football.

If someone is alleged to have broken the law, as in this instance by making certain comments, then the police should be notified and it goes from there.

That is all a part of how our society works. The courts uphold the laws made by Parliament which is elected by us, the people.

The FA has ignored this basic fact and themselves should be charged with contempt of our laws.

What we see is political correctness running roughshod over our laws, making in time a very intolerant society where freedom of speech is denied, just like the former East Germany with its Stazi secret police.

Those who advocate this method of government should realise that in time this will cause major problems in our society by restricting freedom of speech.

Stephen Bennett,
Briars Green, Ashurst

We want to hear from you

IF you've got a point of view on a topic of local or national interest, we want to hear from you.

You can send your letters to: Letters to the Editor, Champion Newsapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA; or email them to editor@champnews.com

Correspondents are asked to please keep letters concise, preferably no longer than 350 words.

They should also include a name, address and contact telephone number for verification purposes.

If you do not wish to publish your name and address, please include a suitable pseudonym.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Message to other owners: Our dogs are on a lead for a reason

WHAT do you think when you see a dog on a lead in a park, or a field, or a beach? Why do you think that dog is on a lead?

Well, let me enlighten you, as from my experience it seems most dog owners have no idea.

It might be that the dog is elderly or that it is a rescue dog the owner is attempting to train.

It might be the dog is poorly or is not friendly with other dogs (it might even be that the owner is not friendly!)

But whichever of these reasons, it is a matter of consideration and manners that other dog owners keep their wayward, loony, over–friendly and ill–mannered Fido out of the face of said dog.

I often wonder if these dog owners are the sort of person who would like to be in my own personal space, jumping around and prodding my nose?

Would they like it done to them? Well, why on earth do they think this is acceptable to another dog?

To all dog owners, please give this some thought in the future.

It might help your dog stay safe but I guarantee it will result in less fights – both canine and human.

Dog owner,
name and address supplied

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Redevelopment of blaze–hit former mill near completion

THE redevelopment of the former Ainscough Mill in Burscough is nearing completion, less than a year after the local landmark was engulfed in a huge blaze.

Around 100 nearby homes had to be evacuated when fire broke out in the iconic building in the early hours of March 11 last year. At the height of the blaze more than 50 firefighters tackled the flames and the adjacent railway line and Leeds–Liverpool Canal were closed for several hours.

Developers Persimmon Homes have converted the historic mill, situated just off Mill Lane, into 56 properties which went on sale this week, starting at around £140,000.

An artist's impression of how the restored building will look when completed

advertisement feature

Financial support for small businesses – where to start?

As a small business owner, what keeps you awake at night? For many, balancing the books is top of the list. Healthy finances are crucial to allow you to both invest in your business whilst protecting it from what the future may bring. Fortunately, there is a range of government support available to help your business to be secure and most importantly, grow.

One example of a small business which has received government financial support is Trunki. Their innovatively designed products (including their famous children's suitcase) have enabled them to access a range of government products and services, helping them to take huge leaps as a business.

"Trunki has received government support in a number of ways." explains Rob Law, founder of Trunki. "Firstly, we worked hard to re-shore our manufacturing to our plastics moulding factory in Plymouth, allowing us to benefit from The Patent Box scheme."

The Patent Box enables companies to apply a lower rate of corporation tax to profits earned from patented inventions. It is being phased in over a four-year period and once the full benefit of the Patent Box is in effect (from April 2017) it will result in a ten per cent rate of corporation tax being applied to such returns.

"We have always applied for patents for all of our products to build up our IP portfolio, it's one of the most valuable assets we have" said Law. "This scheme is brilliant, allowing us to re-invest more of our earnings back into the business. It motivated us to stay in the UK and not to offshore. It rewards inventive companies too, which can only be a good thing."

"Secondly, we received government support through R&D tax credits for the development of our BoostAPak children's car seat and for the re-engineered version of our Trunki suitcases, which is now easier to manufacture in the UK and to recycle."

There are many types of financial support available to businesses with ambitions to grow. As well as the increasing variety of finance sources now available (such as crowdfunding, bank loans and peer-to-peer lending) there are many government schemes and incentives (on top of those Trunki accessed) devised to help small businesses secure the funding they need to succeed.

For example, your business may be eligible for financial support packages such as the Enterprise Investment Scheme, SMART grants or Social Investment Tax Relief. Or perhaps your business needs the support to secure initial funding to help turn your idea into a reality.

To learn about all of the finance options available to you and your business, and for more detail on how the government can support you financially, visit www.greatbusiness.gov.uk/finance

"Tax relief on new products helped our business take off"
Rob Law, CEO of Trunki
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Careers advice for young people

LANCASHIRE County Council's young people's service is hosting a 'New Year, New Start' event at Skelmersdale library, Southway on Thursday (January 15) from 3.30 to 6pm.

Aimed at those aged between 16 and 24, the recruitment and training initiative will provide information about apprenticeships, training courses and jobs that are available.

It will also offer young people from throughout West Lancashire the opportunity to chat to employers, representatives from training providers and the local Job Centre about how to make the most of the opportunities on offer. They wil also have the chance to chat to some young people who have completed training programmes.

There will also be information about advice, guidance and support available, along with career kick–starts, traineeships, free bus passes for eligible young people and college courses.

More information on the event is available on 01695 651350 / 651311.

Hardship fund set up to help the needy

WEST Lancashire residents can apply for a grant from a £5,000 fund set up to help people who need extra support to keep warm and well through the winter.

Adult support service Help Direct are working with West Lancashire Borough Council to promote the Winter Warm scheme's hardship fund.

To qualify you must have a health condition and be aged over 65 and in receipt of a qualifying benefit; have dependent children aged 14 or under and in receipt of a qualifying benefit; or be a single person/couple aged under 65 without dependent children and in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The qualifying benefits are Income Support; Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance; Income Based ESA; Guarantee Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit (with an annual income of less than £15,860 per year); Universal Credit; War Disablement Pension (must include mobility supplement or constant attendance allowance) or Industrial Injuries Benefit (must include constant attendance allowance).

A spokesman for Help Direct said: "There is £5,000 available. So far people have accessed the fund to make top–up payments for gas and electricity and there are other interventions available such as help to purchase electric blankets/heaters and other means to help people stay warm and well.

"The aim of the fund is to keep people warm and well throughout the winter. The application is very straightforward and will be completed by a Help Direct Advisor. Even if someone doesn't qualify using the criteria below and they are experiencing hardship please refer to us as there may be other avenues to explore."

For more information on the eligibility and type of help available via the hardship fund contact Help Direct and quote West Lancashire Winter Warm Scheme. Referrals can be made via Referrals/Partner enquiries: 0303 333 1039 or info@loc.helpdirectlancs.org.uk.

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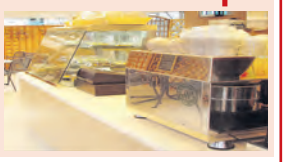

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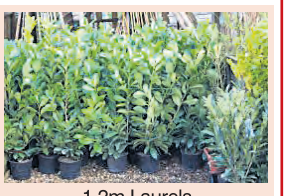
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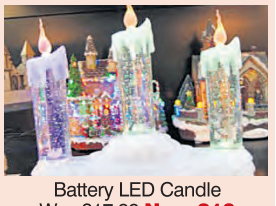
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Report by **Henry James**

ALTHOUGH the start of a new year is a time of hope for many people, for victims of domestic abuse it can be a time when a recurring nightmare becomes even worse.

Official figures from previous years show an average increase of 22% of reports of domestic abuse in West Lancashire between December and January.

And over the last 12 months, 154 cases of domestic abuse in the borough have been taken to court.

In 50% of domestic violence cases, children can get hurt too, either by being subjected to violence themselves or witnessing it.

However, help is at hand.

The Liberty Centre, formerly Domestic Violence Support Services (West Lancashire) helped a total of 637 women and families between April and September 2014. Many of these were referred by the police or other agencies, while others went themselves. More than a third of them were deemed to be at a medium or high risk of domestic violence, and the centre is currently supporting 159 families.

Now the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (WLCSP) is sending a message to victims that help is available for those suffering.

Anyone who is forced to alter their behaviour because they are frightened of their partner's reaction is being abused. Research has shown that abuse can happen at any stage of a relationship and is very rarely a one–off. One in four women will suffer from domestic abuse at some stage in their lives.

The WLCSP is supporting the White Ribbon Campaign, which calls on men to take a stand against domestic violence.

Councillor David Sudworth, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for community safety, said: "If you are reading this and think you are a victim of domestic abuse, or you think someone else may be a victim, please talk to someone you trust. Or you can call the police, or the Liberty Centre or a national helpline.

"It is important to stress that while more than 80 per cent of victims in domestic violence cases are women, men are also the victims of domestic abuse."

West Lancashire police inspector June Chessell said: "We cannot allow victims of domestic abuse to suffer. We will act to bring perpetrators to justice whenever we can and will work with our partner agencies to support victims to leave abusive relationships."

The Liberty Centre has a free, confidential 24–hour helpline number 0808 100 3062. And the centre's confidential counselling and legal advice services for victims is open every day except bank holidays.

West Lancashire Women's Refuge offers short–term emergency accommodation.

David Tilleray, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairman, said: "Domestic abuse is a crime. We want victims to know they are not alone and if they approach those services that can help them their complaints will be handled with care by people sympathetic to what they are going through.

"We would urge members of the community to report any problems with domestic violence they are aware of."

For details about services available to people suffering domestic violence visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/domesticviolence. For information on the White Ribbon Campaign go to www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk.

The Broken Rainbow national helpline numbers for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are 0800 999 5428, and 0300 999 5428.

The police can be contacted on their non–emergency number 101 or in an emergency ring 999.

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Diggers go for gold!

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MEMBERS of a newly–formed club are hoping to become 'gold–diggers' – in the nicest possible sense!

The Ormskirk Metal Detecting Club was officially launched online at ormskirkmdc.co.uk this month and founder, Tony O'Keefe says any West Lancs residents keen to have a go are welcome to go along and join in the fun.

Tony, who hails from Ormskirk, is hopeful that, with the town's historic links to the Vikings, the enthusiasts have a good chance of striking gold – any other precious metals!

He said: "We are a new group of hobby enthusiasts who like to visit any sites to try out our metal detectors to seek out all the hidden treasures and heritage of our lands which have been buried throughout the years.

"This area is especially interesting due to Ormskirk's historic local Viking heritage.

"We welcome new members and hope to grow our membership to allow all interested people to try out our hobby."

As well as Ormskirk, it is planned to hold digs across Merseyside and Lancashire, including Aughton, Skelmersdale, Maghull, Crosby, Bootle, Southport, Ellesmere Port, St Helens, Wigan and the Wirral.

And members are encouraged to look at other areas as well.

Digs dig will run from 9am to 4pm, usually at weekends, and will be posted on the website several weeks in advance.

Annual membership of the club costs £8, which covers insurance against any damage caused to property while digging.

For more information or to join the club, visit ormskirkmdc.co.uk

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Smells bring back the whiff – or odour – of days gone by

WHICH of your senses do you find the most likely to bring back memories, happy, sad, good or bad?

Personally, I think smell is likely to be the most evocative – and often the most puzzling.

Some smells, like hot tar or freshly–brewed coffee, are almost certain to bring back memories.

In my case, the smell of tobacco about a person is actually very pleasant because just about my earliest childhood memory is being carried along the canal bank by my dad, with my face buried in the lapel of his jacket which smelled of Wills Wild Woodbine cigarettes. To this day, contrary to most people, I find the smell comforting.

Another is the smell of lilac blossom.

Again, an early memory is holding my granny's hand as we walked past lilac in the early evening at Butlin's Holiday Camp at Pwllheli.

A memory of pleasure which never fades.

But smell is a strange word. It can denote something nice or nasty.

'You smell nice' is good. But just 'you smell' sets folk looking for the deodorant (and probably new friends) so definitely is not.

And similes for smell, too, must be very confusing to anyone for whom English is not their first language.

Take aroma. If you are talking about the aroma of coffee, that is obviously pleasant.

But to say something has a 'strange aroma' surely implies the opposite.

Or odour. On its own, not necessarily something very good. Unless you say something is in good odour – so obviously it can be good too.

Mind you, stink cannot be anything but odorous, with pong being much the same.

Stench and reek, too, are hard to use except in a positively disgusting way – but whiff is another of those smell words which can imply pleasure or its opposite.

Anyway, that just about exhausts my immediate stock of smell words – and is just another example, I suppose, of the complexity and richness of our language.

In fact, though, it doesn't by any means imply that it is only by adding or changing words immediately before or after the word you select that its meaning can easily be changed.

Just the inflection of your voice can do the same job.

Try it with 'what's that smell?'

You can use it just as well if the drains are blocked or if the room is permeated by the smell of roses.

It's just the way you tell 'em!

Perhaps the recent Christmas season brought about these musings.

Most festive smells are good and a reminder of happy times – mince pies or Christmas dinner cooking, perhaps a cheerful log fire or a whiff of pine needles.

All kinds of everything – except the smell of turkey burning or of overheating wiring coming from somewhere inaccessible.

Or gravy boiling all over the cooker – a smell I fear I can smell just now.

Hurried goodbyes!

advertising feature

KEEP SAFE FROM FIRE – AT EVERY LEVEL

A few too many celebratory nights out and overindulgence during the festive season mean many of us are spending the cold, dark winter evenings at home in the new year. But those domestic treats to cheer us – the heater turned up to 'max', candles giving a soft glow and perhaps some chips cooking in the kitchen – can bring greater risks of fire in the home.

That's why the Fire Kills campaign together with fire and rescue services around the country is asking you and your household to take extra care and is recommending a few simple steps to keep everyone safe. These simple steps save lives.

More than nine out of ten homes now have at least one smoke alarm installed. But fire can break out anywhere in the home. To make sure that any smoke does set off your smoke alarms, install at least one on every level of your home and especially close to where you sleep.

If you test them at least monthly you can be confident that they are all working properly – both the power supply and the detection mechanism. Then you can be sure that you and your household will have the earliest possible warning of danger should a fire break out.

Last year 213 people died in fires in their home. The most common reason why smoke alarms didn't go off was because smoke did not reach the detector. Another reason was that the batteries were flat or missing. Working smoke alarms on every level really can save lives.

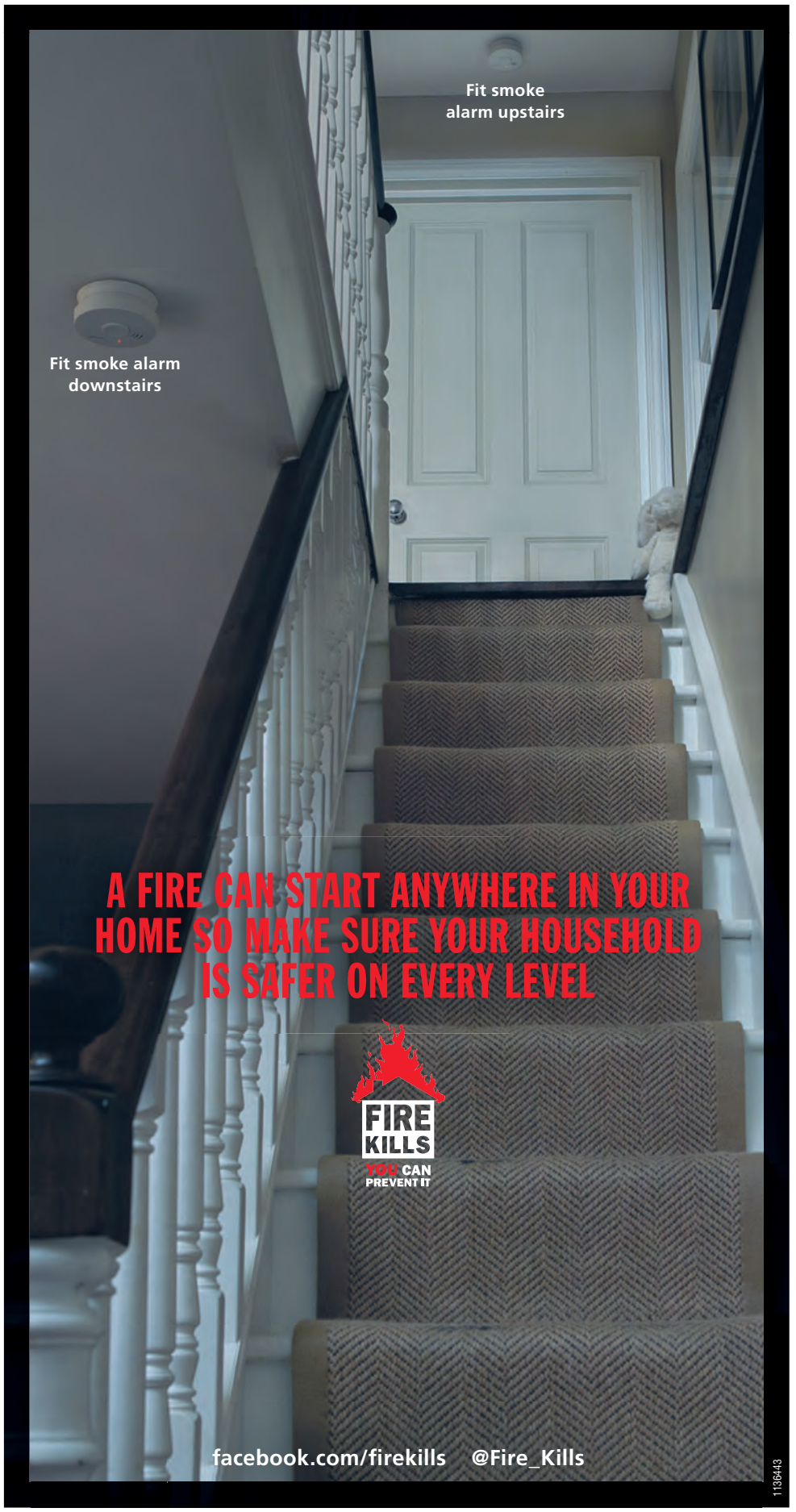
Once you know fire has started in your home, **get out, stay out and call '999'.** But how are you going to get out? That is the next simple step we are urging you to think about now – your escape routes. The best one is your normal way in and out of your home. Then you need a good back-up plan in case the fire is blocking that route.

Make sure all your routes are always clear of blockages you can control, like boxes and toys, and everyone knows where door and window keys are kept. A household planning session and practice run can be a life-saver for everyone – especially those who might need extra help with some routes or are a little slower. Most people overestimate their ability to escape a fire – often not realising the deadly effect of smoke. Surveys suggest that around 70 per cent of older people fall into this group but, sadly, over half of the people who died in recent domestic fires in England were aged 65 and over.

Don't risk tragedy in a fire in your home, follow these three simple steps:

- Install a smoke alarm on every level and near sleeping areas
- Test them at least monthly to make sure they are all working
- Plan and practise your escape routes and keep them clear.

For more information and fire safety advice, visit www.gov.uk/firekills at www.facebook.com/firekills or follow us on Twitter @Fire_Kills.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Inspectors praise school's leadership and development

STAFF at a primary school are celebrating after their 'outstanding' leadership and management and 'rapid and sustained development' were praised in the latest Ofsted report.

Tarleton Academy was inspected last month under the latest Ofsted framework.

The report praised the leadership of teaching, the governance of the academy in Hesketh Lane and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its students as 'outstanding' and also praised the 'consistently good and outstanding teaching.'

The academy's 'rapid and sustained development' during the last three years brought it to within a whisker of an overall outstanding judgement.

The report further stated: "Inspection evidence shows the progress of students currently in the academy is continuing to rise because leaders and managers have set much more demanding targets for progress and achievement."

Headteacher, Lesley Gwinnett, who took over running the school in September 2011, said: "Over the last three years there has been significant advancement in many key areas, including leadership at senior and middle level, standards of teaching and learning, the now excellent behaviour of students and the fantastic progress they are subsequently making.

"There were a number of crucial 'legacy' issues to address but we are now confident that on a day–to–day basis we are a thriving, enthusiastic, skilled and committed staff who enjoy really positive and fruitful relationships and outcomes with our students, their families and the wider community.

"With the high calibre of students of all abilities that we have at the school, this is as it should be."

Chair of governors, Helen Dicker, said: "I am delighted that the current generation of children in the school are reaping the rewards of all the hard work that has gone into making it such a superb environment in which to learn and develop as happy, well–rounded young people."

June opening date for new supermarket

An artist's impression of how the new Booths supermarket will look, in the style of an aircraft hangar

THE new Booths supermarket in Burscough is set to open in June.

It will be the first store to open on the new Ringtail Retail Park.

Work started on the site in November 2013 and the supermarket is being built in the shape of a World War Two hangar to link in with the heritage of the retail park's location on the site of the former HMS Ringtail Fleet Air Arm station.

The HMS Ringtail war memorial was moved from its previous position to allow the access road for the park to be built.

This will be the second Booths supermarket in West Lancashire, following the opening of the Hesketh Bank store in 2010.

The company's property director, Graham Booth, said: "We look forward to bringing a vibrant and modern retail destination to Burscough. We will be working closely with the developers to ensure a food store of the highest quality is delivered."

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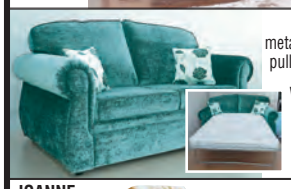

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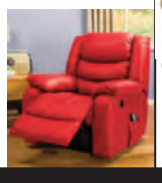

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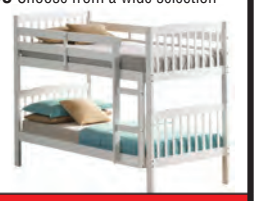

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Scam victims get money back after crackdown

Report by **Henry James**

FOUR people in West Lancashire have received money back, thanks to a crackdown on 'prize draw' mail scams.

In June last year the National Trading Standards Scams Team and Royal Mail launched an initiative to seize responses to mail scams before the cash reaches the criminals behind them.

To date, more than 6,000 items of mail have been intercepted across the UK with more than £108,000 returned to victims. A further 4,000 replies to suspected scam mail are currently being examined.

Crucially, victims receive their money back from a Trading Standards officer who visits to make sure the person understands they have been scammed and to check on their welfare.

Prize draw scams are notorious for targeting the elderly and other vulnerable people, who are less likely to realise that the mail is a scam.

County Councillor Janice Hanson, Lancashire's cabinet member for public protection services, said: "It can be very difficult to persuade vulnerable, often elderly, people that letters telling them they have won large sums of money are scams.

County Councillor Janice Hanson

"The fact that we are able to contact them directly with the money they sent, along with very clear advice, should really help to break the cycle in many cases. Every cheque or money returned is another person helped and another blow to the criminals.

"I'm very pleased with the progress so far and we look forward to continuing this important work."

The National Trading Standards Scams Team has also obtained a list of 160,000 people across the UK who have been identified by scammers as repeat victims.

The list of names, compiled by criminals to focus their scams, is being passed to local Trading Standards officers who can then contact people to make them aware they are being targeted.

Trading Standards officers in Lancashire are working closely with safeguarding staff to ensure that victims who are identified as vulnerable receive appropriate support and referral.

Cllr. Hanson added: "Often those targeted by scammers are some of the most vulnerable people in Lancashire, and this information means we're able to check that they're receiving the support they need in terms of social care and other services."

If you think you, or someone you know, may be a victim of prize draw scams, get in touch with Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06.

People can also report suspected fraudulent mail scams by writing to Royal Mail at Freepost Scam Mail, calling 03456 113 413, or by email to scam.mail/@royalmail.com.

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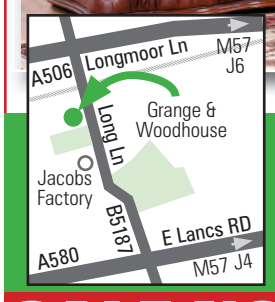

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Advice Bureau launches skills courses in search for volunteers

Chance to boost career prospects and give something back to community

Report by **Henry James**

Keep in touch with the local news and views
on our website
www.champnews.com

PEOPLE are being offered free training in career skills and the opportunity to give something back to their community at the same time in an initiative launched by Citizens Advice aimed at attracting more volunteers.

New training courses created by Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau could be the first step on the ladder for people to work in many new careers, as well as preparing them to help others with the many issues they face in life.

Volunteers will undergo a series of tutorial sessions with licensed CAB trainers, plus six months of practical experience working one day a week in one of the bureau's local centres.

They can train in a number of skills including reception, telephone skills, client assessment and advice.

CAB training for generalist advisers is equal to a Level 3 qualification in Providing Initial Legal Information and Advice.

Diane Gradwell, Lancashire West chief executive, said: "This will be a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to gain new skills at the same time as making a valuable contribution to the community.

Diane Gradwell

"Whether they are unemployed, in further education, planning to return to work or simply looking for a better job, volunteering with the CAB can be a useful career step as well as immensely rewarding in itself. All we ask is that they have some basic IT skills and preferably see the course through to the end."

Anyone interested in the training can call 01772 425912 or email volunteer@lw.cabnet.org.uk to find out more. Courses begin this month.

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TV focus on red squirrels' fight for survival

THE battle for survival faced by Lancashire's red squirrels over the last 10 years – including a deadly virus that almost wiped the species out and the rise of invasive grey squirrels – featured in the Newsround TV programme last Friday (January 9).

The programme, which can be viewed online, saw presenter Martin Dougan meet with Lancashire Wildlife Trust's red squirrel project officer, Rachel Miller at the National Trust's Formby reserve to discuss the squirrels.

Recently there have been sightings of red squirrels across the area, including at Skelmersdale and Bickerstaffe and at the Wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Mere Sands Wood near Rufford.

• To watch the episode, visit bbc.co.uk/newsround

New–look cafe with local flavour

Family–run bistro takes on teenage trainees

By **Danielle Thompson**

THE owners of a café which has undergone 18 months of refurbishments say they are delighted to have been able to take on four young apprentices from the area.

Craig and Cathy Walsh's Infusions Café Bistro in Burscough has been extended into the shop next door and extensively refurbished with the fitting of a new kitchen and bar.

And although the work took 18 months in total to complete, the couple were able to stay open for most of that time and only forced to close briefly while the finishing touches were applied.

They have also extended their opening hours to allow them to serve an evening bistro menu at the cafe in Orrell Lane.

Craig said: "We are very much a family–run business and our chef, Paul Moore, is Cathy's brother.

"We are also pleased to have been able to employ four young people from within Burscough as we have such brilliant support here.

Craig and Cathy Walsh of Infusions Café Bistro

"We have taken the teenagers – Mollie Hardy, 18, Heather Watson and Keith Staines, both 19, and 17–year–old Robert Woods – on as trainees and apprentices.

"Mollie is doing an NVQ level 2 in catering and hospitality apprenticeship and Heather will soon be starting an NVQ level 2 front of house apprenticeship, both with North Lancs Training Group who have been our training provider for four years.

"Robert is a trainee chef NVQ level 2 at Southport College and Keith has joined us after completing his level 3 NVQ in cookery at Blackburn college and has previously worked at the Blue Mallard.

"We look around and see so many people who have grown up here, staying in the area and setting up some brilliant, successful businesses that are really moving Burscough forward and enhancing the village and we are proud to be a part of that."

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Public feedback prompts county change of heart on transport cuts

LANCASHIRE County Council has decided not to include plans for 100% cuts in spending on subsidised bus services and subsidised denominational school transport in their budget proposals to deliver £216m in savings by April 2018.

This decision was made after the council took note of public feedback over the last few months.

But the authority is seeking views on a proposed 1.99% increase in council tax for the coming financial year, which they say will help protect local services.

David Borrow, deputy leader and portfolio holder for finance, said: "We have to find unprecedented savings due to a combination of cuts imposed by central government and rising demand for essential services such as social care.

"This means that in addition to the £21m of savings for 2015/16 already identified in last year's budget, we have identified a further £79.8m of savings to be made this year. Between 2010 and 2018 we will have made savings of £547 million, which requires radical action.

"We can make some savings by introducing more intelligent and efficient ways of working. However, it is also clear that we will have to deliver some services in a different way and stop providing some services altogether.

"We will do all we can to ensure that we protect the most vulnerable in the county and we are also committed to spending our resources fairly, according to need.

"As a cabinet we are not supporting the option of removing bus subsidies or financial support for children travelling to denominational schools, having listened to feedback from the consultation we've carried out over recent months.

"We are now carrying out a further consultation before the full council meeting in February takes the final decision on the budget."

Speaking about the proposed council tax increase, Cllr. Borrow added: "This modest increase will bring in additional funds that will make a real difference to local services. Equivalent to just over 42p per week for a band D property, the increase would bring in an additional £7.5m, the equivalent of protecting more than 180 children's social workers or repairing more than 300,000 potholes.

"We realise times are tough but hope that local council tax payers will understand why we are proposing this."

You can find out more at the Budget – Have Your Say page at www.lancashire.gov.uk.

Local care company earns outstanding rating

A WEST Lancashire care company has been named as one of the first three adult social care services in England to be judged as outstanding by the latest Care Quality Commison reports.

Home Instead Senior Care West Lancashire, which provides care and companionship for adults and older people in their own homes, received the highest rating possible from the CQC under its new system, which recognises the critical importance of compliance and credits overall quality of care service.

Home Instead is run by Gail and Robert Godson.

Gail trained as a nurse and went on to gain 30 years' experience in the health care service, while husband Robert previously worked for the government modernising public services.

The couple set up the Home Instead Senior Care office based in Ormskirk in 2012, as part of national home care provider Home Instead Senior Care UK, who provide care and companionship.

Under the CQC's new programme of inspections, all adult social care services are rated as outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate.

Gail said: "We could not deliver that excellence of care without our committed team of caregivers and I would like to dedicate this rating to each and every one of them, they are our superheroes."

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1136425

MP backs call for concessionary travel for OAPs

Rosie Cooper pictured with Councillor Liam Robinson and members of the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum Code NA

ROSIE Cooper has met with West Lancashire Pensioners Forum and Merseytravel chairman, Councillor Liam Robinson in a bid to secure concessionary rail travel for pensioners in the region.

The West Lancs MP is supporting calls by members of the forum for a fair deal on rail travel for pensioners in the borough, similar to that enjoyed by those in Liverpool and Southport who have access to free and concessionary bus and train services.

Merseytravel have expressed their willingness to work with neighbouring authorities to explore all options and their openness to negotiating a deal that would see pensioners get concessionary rail travel.

However, any deal would be dependent upon securing the necessary funding from the relevant local authorities.

It would also need to take in services beyond the Ormskirk to Liverpool line, including the Southport–to–Manchester and Ormskirk–to–Preston services.

Rosie Cooper said: "It was a very positive meeting with West Lancashire Pensioners Forum and I want to thank Liam Robinson for meeting with us.

"Delivering concessionary rail travel is not easy given the costs but at least neighbouring transport authorities are open to negotiation, an arrangement that could provide a fair deal on rail travel for pensioners and other concessionary travellers.

"With councils slashing their budgets, we face a tough fight but I've committed to getting all the relevant authorities around the table to start this process and explore the options."

Drinkers warned about super–strength spirit

DRINKERS are being warned to steer clear of a potentially lethal super–strength spirit on sale in Lancashire.

Trading standards officers in the county say just two shots of the drink, labelled as either Spirytus or Spirytus Rektyfikowanya, could prove fatal.

The spirit is a base alcohol with an ABV (alcohol by volume) level of 95% which is generally used in Eastern Europe for producing homemade liqueurs.

Rachel Wilcock from Lancashire's Trading Standards Service said: "We are aware that these products are on sale in some Polish shops in Lancashire and we want to make unsuspecting customers aware at the earliest opportunity about this issue.

"An ABV of 95% is simply too strong an alcohol to be drunk neat, as a shot drink.

"We suspect the product may not have adequate labelling, i.e. not having instructions for use in English, and therefore poses a hazard to people who consume it neat.

"Most spirit drinks are around the 40% ABV mark, so this is more than double the strength of regular spirits. We don't want people to misuse the product thereby posing a risk to their health and possibly their lives.

"There has been an instance in Australia where a young girl drank the product and subsequently died and we don't want this to happen to anyone else.

"Scientific evidence suggests that just two shots of this drink could kill you so we are very keen to liaise with the shops where it's on sale to make sure it is sold safely and legally.

"If anyone sees the product on sale in Lancashire, they are asked to contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506."

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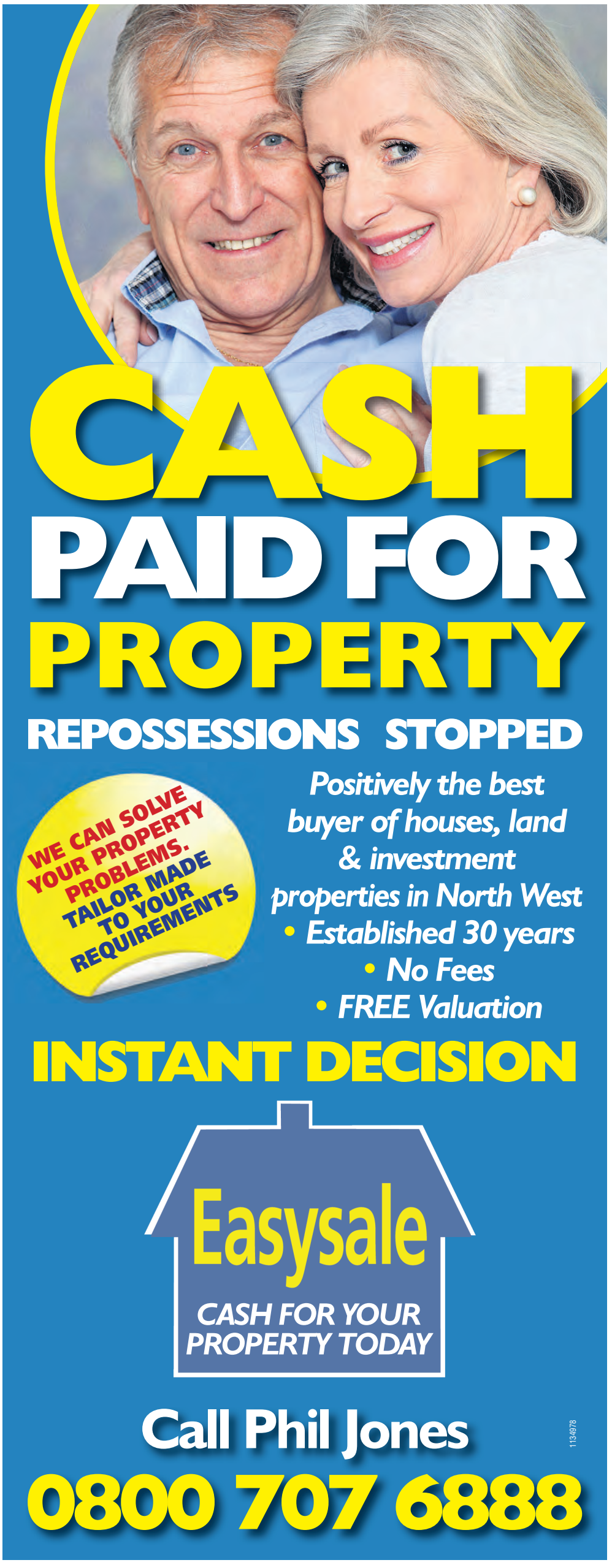

Martin Mere staff set up international tracking operation after cygnet goes missing in Ireland

The family of swans in Iceland Code NA

Report by **Henry James**

AN international tracking operation has been set up after a family of swans at the Martin Mere Wetland Centre left behind one of their cygnets in Ireland.

Over the summer, species monitoring assistant at the Burscough centre, Kane Brides, spent time in Iceland monitoring and researching Whooper swans and Pink–footed geese on their breeding grounds.

During this time a family of five swans were ringed at Engivtn in northern Iceland on August 4 – BZS, BZL, BZN, BZP plus the parents BZJ and Y9S (pictured with Kane).

Kane said: "What is unique about this story is that BZJ and Y9S have recently escaped the cold weather and arrived at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre with just three cygnets with them (BZL, BZN & BZP) and we had sadly assumed that the fourth cygnet had died during the migration.

"However, news came in last week that a cygnet was seen in Ireland on December 27, unusually staying on the fringes of the flock.

"George McDermott contacted WWT and we were astounded to see that this young swan was BZS. He has either been ditched or simply left behind in Ireland which is rare to hear of.

"He will be staying on the fringes of the flock with having no family to back him up if disputes occur but it is great to hear that he is alive, albeit alone."

The cygnet BZS is currently at Inch Wildfowl Reserve in Ireland and is now as part of an international tracking operation between England, Ireland and Iceland to see if the swan reunites with its family either at WWT Martin Mere this winter or back in Iceland in the spring.

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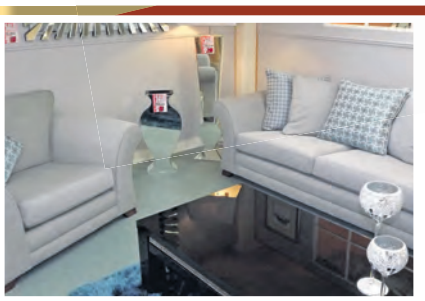

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County Financial Services - finding you the best deal

BNI FEATURE

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Shopping for Mortgages and Insurance policies is not at the top of most people's favourites' list. With so many options available it can be confusing at best and completely mind boggling at worst. However, a good broker can point you in the right direction and make sure that you make the right decision.

At County Financial Services there are no acronyms, no jargon just simple straight forward answers to all matters relating to Mortgages and Insurance.

Paul Gilchrist, has over 20 years' experience within the financial services industry, and adds: "Being an Independent Mortgage and Insurance broker means that I have access to around 80 lenders and over 2000 Mortgage products, including exclusive deals that are not normally available on the high street. Based on this I am ideally positioned within the market place to find the most competitive Mortgage and Insurance deals to meet the majority of my client's financial circumstances"

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Insurance:

We also deal in all aspects of insurance such as Life Insurance, Sickness Cover, Critical Illness Cover, Private Medical Insurance and Home Insurance so here at County Financial Services you can get all your financial needs in the one place.

Our aim is to make the process of arranging a Mortgage or Insurance product as stress free as possible for our clients. Even if you feel you could handle the whole process yourself, the likely reality is that your work and home commitments already mean you have enough on your plate that's why people are increasingly turning to County Financial Services.

Paul says: "I am a member of BNI based in Southport, I joined BNI to develop my business contacts within the local community and grow my business, BNI gives me the opportunity to do this, along with making new contacts nationwide"

Please also contact Paul Gilchrist if you are interested in joining BNI.

We offer appointments at a time and place to suit you, whether its evenings or weekends, to arrange an appointment please contact us on 01704 517828 (FREEPHONE 0800 2100264) or Paul Gilchrist directly on 07718770350 or email paul@countyfinancialservices.co.uk.

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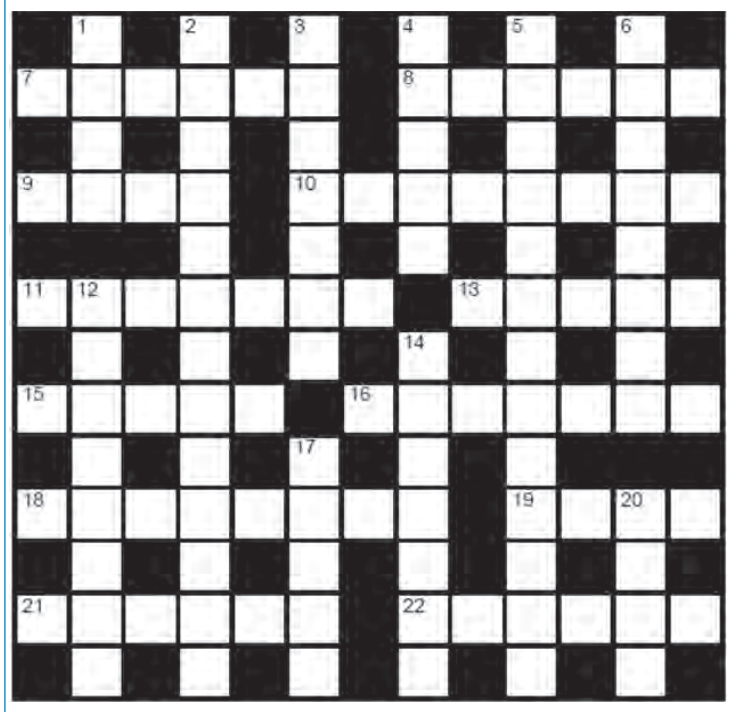

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Saloon. 8 Acidic. 9 Gala. 10 Restless. 11 Boycott. 13 Umber. 15 Cloth. 16 Ebb tide. 18 Kilowatt. 19 Clot 21 Petite. 22 Italic

Down: 1 Gaga. 2 Roman Catholic. 3 Ingrate. 4 Cause. 5 Diplomatic bag. 6 Airspeed. 12 Oil-fired. 14 Abstain. 17 Based. 20 Olio.

ACROSS

7 Rebellion, especially by soldiers or sailors against their officers (6)
8 Treated badly (6)
9 Slow, heavy walk (4)
10 Problematic situation which will become dangerous if not addressed (4,4)
11 With little expenditure (7)
13 Sports or pastimes (5)
15 Latin American dance (5)
16 Female deity (7)
18 Very thin or fine (8)
19 Vow, pledge (4)
21 Israeli currency (6)
22 German submarines in world wars (1-5)

DOWN

1 Fight between two people using swords or other weapons (4)
2 Unofficial industrial action (7,6)
3 Contraction of the heart when blood is pumped into the arteries (7)
4 Pleasantly warm weather (5)
5 Propulsion system for boats (8,5)
6 Smooth and continuous (8)
12 Problem (informal) (8)
14 Scoring term in baseball (4,3)
17 Passage between rows of seats (5)
20 Goodbye (informal) (2-2)

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Cramford House has 15 such properties, complete with gated secure parking and easy access via the lift system, featuring light and airy open plan lounges, bay windows, luxurious fixtures and fittings and uncompromising standards and attention to detail - they call it the 'Dorbcrest Difference'.

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For full details of the apartments at Cramford House, call Dorbcrest on 01695 580720 or 07909 523950.

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Upholland is situated on a small hill, rising above the West Lancashire Coastal Plain, offering stunning views of the High Peak of Derbyshire as well as Liverpool and Southport. Each house is built to the highest specification, with quality craftsmanship integrated into each aspect of the build.

A typical Wainhomes kitchen/dining room

Modern building regulations ensure that every new homeowner at Hillcrest will benefit from high energy efficiency standards throughout the property.

Among the house designs currently available are the Scott 4 bedroom home which offers spacious accommodation over 2 floors including large lounge, fitted kitchen with utility room, separate dining room, downstairs cloaks, en-suite to master bedroom and family bathroom; and the Brunel, a 4 bedroom home which includes large lounge/dining, kitchen, separate utility, downstairs cloaks, master bedroom with en-suite and family bathroom.

Both properties include single garage, double driveway and feature split level south west facing rear gardens and are available at just £224,950.

Sharon Wood, Regional Sales Director for Wainhomes Northwest, commented "Hillcrest is a truly unique development offering an exclusive collection of luxury homes. This development is proving to be hugely popular and receiving high levels of interest.

A typical Scott 4 bedroom house design

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Photographs show the Brunel Showhome and interiors at Hillcrest.

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New season launched at Edge Hill's Arts Centre

AN eclectic spring season of events has been announced for Edge Hill University's Arts Centre.

For the first time, the venue will feature a number of live theatre screenings, from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, including the RSC's Love's Labour's Lost, Love's Labour's Won (Much Ado About Nothing), and The Merchant of Venice, and National Theatre Live productions Behind the Beautiful Forevers, Treasure Island, and The Hard Problem.

TV and stage star Maxine Peake's acclaimed Hamlet performance at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre last year, will also be screened on March 23 and April 9.

A host of dramatic performances will take centre stage during the coming months. Multi–award winning Theatre Ad Infinitum return on January 27, to perform their sci–fi production Light, inspired by Edward Snowden's revelations and the ensuing debate on state surveillance; The Angry Roads by world–renowned dramatist Edward Bond, can be seen on February 2, and A Journey Round My Skull, a tale of a passionate and painful love affair told by a neurosurgeon, follows on February 5.

The extremes of human emotion will also be explored this season. On February 10, Liverpool–based physical theatre company Tmesis perform That's Amoré, an hilarious, fast–paced, passionate and poignant piece about romantic love. Near Gone

The cast of That's Amore

Code NA

on February 17, explores what it is to be a mother, a father, a child, and So it Goes on March 10 continues the theme, exploring the light and dark sides of grief, in a playful and deeply personal show. Dalloway on April 23 is Dyad Productions' adaptation of Virginia Woolf's celebrated map of hearts, minds and memories and offers a feminine response to the aftermath of the First World War. Inspired by Japanese mythology and performed on March 3, Rouge28 Theatre's tragic Urashima Taro is a dreamlike fairytale for adults and a story about lust, betrayal and loss.

On February 24 there's a chance to be spooked by a monstrous, disturbing, and completely batty telling of Dracula, and the eerie theme continues with The Various Lives of Infinite Nullity on February 26 where absurdism and dark clowning abound followed by cult classic Jekyll and Hyde on March 16, and a thrilling adaptation of Oscar Wilde's only novel The Picture of Dorian Gray on April 21.

Children have a lot to look forward to with a host of family friendly shows heading to the Arts Centre, starting with Hansel and Gretel on January 24, followed by When Trolls Try to Eat Your Goldfish on February 21, Where Caterpillars Go on March 7, Ugly Duckling on April 25 and Rapunzel on June 3.

henry.james@champnews.com

Classic Maugham play to be staged by town's drama club

Report by **Ron Ellis**

SOUTHPORT Dramatic Club start the second half of their season with that ever popular, classic Somerset Maugham play, The Constant Wife, directed by David Davies.

Constance Middleton is that very rare creature, a witty, intelligent and irresistibly charming woman. When she discovers her husband is having an affair with her best friend, she refuses to throw him out of the family home. Instead, she comes up with a far more dignified way of preserving her dignity.

Sandra Unsworth plays Constance whose philandering husband, John (Howard Kernahan) is seeing her best friend, Marie–Louise (Phillipa Hipwell), wife of Mortimer (Peter Slater).

Making up the rest of the cast are: Margaret Mann, Trudi Hirsch, Diane Mackley, Leslie Cheeseman and Simon Hawkins.

This sparkling comedy, featuring Somerset Maugham's legendary sharp wit and biting sense of humour, is a play not to be missed.

editorial@champnews.com

Margaret Mann, who plays the mother of the wronged wife.

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

1136605

Treasure Island coming to theatre

ROBERT Louis Stevenson's famous story, Treasure Island, is to be streamed live to The Atkinson from The National Theatre in London.

It's a dark, stormy night. The stars are out. A female Jim, the inn–keeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger.

At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea–chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in – and their dangerous voyage begins.

The story is about murder, money and mutiny. Treasure Island starts at 7pm on Thursday, January 22.

Entertainments

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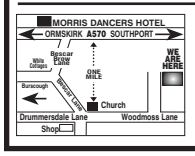

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MAHOGONY CABINET 2door(H45'D23'W40')3shelves+c space exc cond £100 o.n.o. 07821417560

METAL FILING CABINET 5 drawer with free suspension files £35 01704 874189

MIRROR Ornately decorated antique gold frame 26'x22' with oval glass inset 19'x15', perfect condition. Aughton area. £30 07821417560

OAK CHAIRS 2 Solid wood. Medium oak. Brown faux leather seats. Excellent condition. Buyer Must collect £55 o.n.o. 01704213749/07761246655

OAK TABLE Schreiber Woburn Hampshire Solid Oak Table. Brand New Still in Box. Size H 75, W 90, L 180, BUYER MUST COLLECT. £195 01704213749/07761246655

OAK TABLE Schnreiber Woburn Hampshire Solid Oak Table. Brand New Still in Box. Size H 75, W 90, L 180, BUYER MUST COLLECT. £195 01704213749/07761246655

PRINCESS CARRIAGE BED Girls pink princess carriage bed with four wheels and crown. Very good condition solid wood frame. £120 o.n.o. 01515311616

RODIN 'THE KISS' BRONZE STATUE height 24' £225 07821417560

SETTEE 3 seater removeable washable covers, cost £2000, sell £199. VGC solid pine table, seat 4–6 £28 07594 604523

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SOFA BED Pale green & yellow material. Hardly used in good condition.63 inches wide. £40 07546039124

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WINE RACK Wooden wine rack. Holds 36 bottles. £25 01695 733995

HOBBIES

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BUSH D A B RADIO D A B radio hardly used still boxed can be used with either battery, 240v. £25.00p o.n.o. 07745939787

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TOYS AND GAMES

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MISC

OLD COSTUME JEWELLERY collection of. £50 01704 809188

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MISC

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• *Round Includes:* Smithy Ln, Brookfiel Ln, Elmsfoeld Park, Beech Rd
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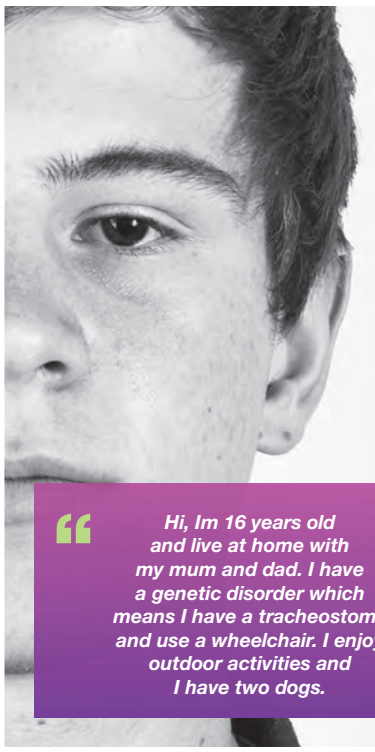

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1136519

To apply for any of these vacancies please apply online at
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Simon Gibson, Sales Manager, Champion Media Group, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA.
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Closing date for applications Friday 23rd January 2015. Previous applicants need not apply

1136539

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ALTERNATIVE FUTURES GROUP

1136521

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 - Article 13

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2014/1339/COU Use of woodland area known as Alice's Plantation as glamping campsite at Watkinsons Farm, Hall Lane, Lathom.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2014/1357/COU Change of use of land from mixed use to residential to allow extension to be built on the gable end of the existing building at 14 Lyelake Lane, Lathom.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2014/1359/FUL" Part two storey/part single storey side extension at 14 Lyelake Lane, Lathom.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2014/1354/FUL Conversion of two barns to residential use and associated works at 61 Becconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank.
Application No: 2014/1355/LBC Listed Building Consent - Conversion of two barns to residential use and associated works at 61 Becconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank.
Application No: 2014/1374/FUL Single storey extension to the existing nursery at Briar Dene Nursery School, 2 Fulwood Avenue, Tarleton.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
* Householder Applications
In the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any comments made will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI, Assistant Director Planning — Dated: 14th January 2015, PDNOT824

1136591

NOTICE OF MAKING
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(WALDRON, SKELMERSDALE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(DISABLED PARKING PLACE) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 7th January 2015 Lancashire County Council made the above Traffic Regulation Order under Sections 1, 2, and 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to introduce a Disabled Parking Place in Waldron, Skelmersdale, the east side from the centre line of Westgate to a point 115 metres easterly and southerly for a distance of 7.2 metres in a southerly direction.

This Order will come into force on the 21st January 2015. A copy of the Order, and all other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Chief Executive, West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF, and at the offices of The County Secretary and Solicitor, Lancashire County Council, County Hall, PO Box 78, Preston PR1 8XJ, **quoting ref: LSG4/5.47711/DJ.** Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Act, or that any requirement of the Act or of any instrument made under the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the order is made, apply for the purpose to the High Court.

Ian Young, County Secretary and Solicitor
14th January 2015

1136294

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

Claybrow and Holland Moor Tenants and Residents Association
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
Evermoor Hub
Tuesday 10th February 2015 at 5:30 pm
All residents welcome
Free raffle • Free refreshments

1136488

PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Mr Angus Patt, Angus Part HIAB Services 42 Ormskirk Road Chapel House Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 8TR would like to add an operating centre to keep 1 goods vehicle and 2 trailers at R.Barker + Sons (transport) LTD Toll Gate Road, Burscough, Ormskirk Lancashire L40 8LD.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office. 1136553

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Announcements

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PRAYER

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask for one special favour. (mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

J.S

PRAYER

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T.C

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Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

M.C.

IN MEMORIAM

Alan Porter
11/05/83 - 19/01/10

If we could have a lifetime wish
and one dream that could come true,
we would pray to God
with all our hearts just to see
and speak to you.
A thousand words won't bring you back,
we know because we've tried,
and neither will a million tears,
we know because we've cried.
You've left behind our broken hearts
and precious memories too.
But we've never wanted memories,
we only wanted you.

It's been 5 years since you've been taken from us. We miss you and think of you every day our lovely son.

Mum, Dad & Liam
xxx

45170

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1136516

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£1500 = 16541 £100 = 29910
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17978	26532
20366	26451
28084	20411
26384	22393
15909	11251
29037	28641
19445	15690
26464	22472
21296	10848
16020	23226

1136688

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BIRTHDAYS

Look Who's 21
Ashley Stoneman

18th January

Happy 21st Birthday.
Have a great day.
Lots of love from
Mum, Mark,
Christian, Glenn
and all the family
XXXXX

42652

Classified ads work!
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IN MEMORIAM

Brian Shepherd
13th January 2009
Remembered always with love
from
Lil and Children and all his Grandchildren.

Precious memories
of you.
Brian
xxx

42564

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Smith
1934 - 2014

In memory of
Jean Smith,
dancer, rambler,
keep-fitter,
dog walker,
bowler and good
friend to all who
knew her.
Let us be happy
for our dear
friend, because
she is now
at peace.

42655

IN MEMORIAM

Birch Barry (Baz)
Died 18th Jan 2007

The fact you're no
longer with us
Will always cause
us pain
But you are forever in
our hearts
Until we meet again

God bless Son
Love Mum & Dad
XX

42650

Announcements

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DEATHS

Rimmer Alan

On 7th January 2015

Peacefully in hospital. Aged 76 years.

Loving Husband of Barbara, devoted Dad of Michelle, Jane, Catherine, Lyndsay and Janet, dear Father in law of Steven, Charlie, Rob and Ian, cherished Ga Ga of Karise, Joseph, Joshua, Phoebe, Olivia, Joel, Ky, Alfie, Nicholas, Haliyah and Sof. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 20th January at 10.40am, family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

1136593

DEATHS

Gibson Hilda Mary R.I.P

January 3rd 2015 Aged 90 years

Much loved wife of Paul, loving mum to Chris and Helen, mother-in-law of Lorraine and Mike, dear grandma to Matthew, James and Alison. Funeral Mass at Holy Family R.C. Church on Tuesday 20th January at 10:30am followed by Committal at Southport Crematorium. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1136472

DEATHS

Lang Mary Margaret

10th January 2015

Peacefully surrounded by her loving family

The dearly loved wife of the late Mike, loving Mum of Michael, Jean, Irene, Linda and John, a dear Mother in law and cherished Nan to all her Grand and Great Grandchildren. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Marlborough House, Witham Road, Skelmersdale. Tel: 01695 722122 / 720012

1136620

DEATHS

NUGENT BRIAN

January 9th 2015

Aged 63 years. Peacefully in Southport Hospital.

Dearly loved husband of Peggy, much loved brother of Barbara, brother-in-law to Jim, dear uncle of Lee and Linsey. Greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 22nd January at 11:20am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for R.S.P.C.A. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1136566

THANKS

Aindow Josephine

John would like to thank all friends and family for their kind thoughts, best wishes, cards and donations to Air Ambulance for his dear beloved Wife Josephine.

God rest her soul.

45225

DEATHS

Betty Roebuck

Died peacefully on 29th December 2014

Aged 89 years

Much loved Wife of John, devoted Mum of Catherine and Sheila Mary and Mother in law of Gerald. Loving Granny to all her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service to take place on Friday 16th January 2015 at Ormskirk Parish Church at 2.00pm followed by burial at Christ Church, Aughton. Family flowers only please. For further enquiries please contact Hunters F.D. 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997

45226

DEATHS

Lewis Elizabeth

29/12/2014

Quietly at home, aged 92 years

Loving mother, nan and great nan to Neil, Elizabeth, Paula, Dawn and family.

Funeral to take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 21st of January at 11.20am. Family flowers only by request but if desired donations to RBLR Bing House.

All enquiries to Broad Heath & Seddon, 33 Liverpool Road. Tel 01704 550055.

45098

DEATHS

Pennington Mary Nee Sheekey

Passed away on 4th January 2015. At Aughton Park Care Home.

Aged 94 years

Will be sadly missed by Cheryl, Keith & family, Angela, John, David & family, Margaret, John, Kath & family and all her family & friends. Family flowers only but donations if so desired to British Heart Foundation or Cancer Research. Funeral service to take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 12.40pm. All enquries to Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997.

1136595

DEATHS

GUNN Reginald (Reg)

31st December 2014

In hospital with his loving family by his side

The dearly loved Husband of Elsie. Good night and God bless you. No more pain my darling. xxxxx

Funeral service will take place at St John the Baptist Parish Church, Burscough on Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 2.00pm followed by interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only by request please. Donations if so desired are being gratefully received by the family on behalf of the R.N.L.I. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough. L40 5UU. Tel: 01704 897770.

1136532

DEATHS

Jardine Dorothy (Nee Evans)

5th January 2015

Aged 88 years. Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice

Dorothy will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Loving Aunt of Jeanette, Steve, Mike and Sue. Great Aunt to Stacey and Ryan. Step Mother to Pam and her Husband Jim. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice. Funeral service at St Michaels Church Aughton on Thursday 15th January at 9.30am. Followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors. 128 Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997.

1136484

DEATHS

LEYSHON CHRISTOPHER GEORGE

29th December 2014

Aged 58 years - unexpectedly

Devoted husband of the late Janet, much loved father of Victoria, Katie and Sarah, father-in-law of Andrew, future father-in-law of Sophie and Gary, son of Alan and Celia, brother to Donald and Guy, brother-in-law to Sue and Judith. Uncle to Claire, Beth, Rachel, Helen and Stella, son-in-law to John. Funeral service at Emmanuel Parish Church, Southport on Friday 16th January 2015 at 2pm, followed by committal at Southport Crematorium attended by only family and close friends. Family flowers only please. No donations, upon request of the family, but alternatively you could buy yourselves a bottle of whiskey (Chris' favourite tipple), in remembrance of the happy times. All enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1136466

DEATHS

Gibbons Norah Alice (Nee Crone)

6th January 2015

Aged 85 years. Passed away peacefully at Stockshall Nursing Home Burscough

Much loved Wife to the late Peter, loving Mum to Valerie, Lynne and Jeff. Devoted Nan to her Grandchildren. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 2pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if so desired to Stockshall Residents Fund Burscough. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors 128 Burscough Street Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel 01695 572997.

1136512

DEATHS

Routledge Patricia Mary

1st January 2015

Aged 84 years

Devoted wife of the late Reginald, much loved mum of Pat, Janet and Susan, mother in law of Edward and Ray. Wonderful nan to Tricia and Paul, Becky, Nicola, Charlotte and Natasha, Sarah and Christopher and all her four great-grandchildren. Greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 19th January at 10:40am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations may be sent for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone: 01704 577786.

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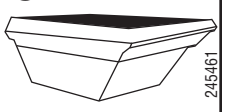
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Smart computers are predicting our every move

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER

THE OTHER week my smartphone – having worked out I was on a train chugging its way through Sandhills station – decided to give me an update on how Brendan Rogers' boys were getting on against Arsenal.

Somewhere deep within the phone's brain, a complicated algorithm had worked out that, as I was vaguely close to Anfield, I must have been interested in the results.

All it proved was that my phone probably knows less about me than you do.

It makes even less sense when you apply it to real world driving – I was driving through London the other day and I could still work out when to change lanes long before Lady Satnav did.

That's why I'm genuinely going to have to take a leap of faith with Honda's latest invention. They've managed to come up with an automatic cruise control system that can predict if someone's about to cut you up. Not only that, but it then applies the brakes to prevent them causing a pile–up.

Surely that's just witchcraft? Predicting who is going to cut you up on the M58 is something best done with common sense rather than computers. Even a really good computer, developed by Honda's brainiest boffins, cannot scan every car on the motorway, work out which one is the BMW X5 on personalised plates and take pre–emptive action to prevent them from ruining your drive into work.

It's called Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control – or i–ACC, as Honda's insisting we nickname it – and it'll be available on range–topping versions of the CR–V off–roader later this year.

It's being hailed as a step towards a whole new generation of clever gadgets that can predict what people are about to do and take steps to improve the situation. Maybe such tech shouldn't just be limited to motoring. Have LFC thought about bringing in i–ACC to replace Brendan Rogers?

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54 **PEUGEOT CC CONVERTIBLE,** finished in midnight black, alloys, service history, elec roof, 12 months MoT, 2 keys, matching grey cloth trim, CD, elec windows & mirrors, all previous MoTs available, Air con, superb condition **£2595**

53 **FIAT DOBLO MPV 5 SEATER SX MODEL,** long wheel base, finished in metallic silver, full 12 months MoT, side sliding doors, huge luggage area, service history, PAS, 3 months Parbold engine & gearbox warranty **£1895**

10 **RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION DIESEL,** 49,000 miles from new, 1 owner, FSH, full MOT, 2 keys, e/windows, remote locking, CD player, 3 months Parbold Parts & Labour warranty, only £30 per year road tax **£4995**

10 **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC DIESEL,** finished in cafe latte metallic, FSH, Nissan alloys, diesel economy, cheap road tax, low insurance group, 2 keys, /c/locking, multi CD, efront/rear windows, SAT NAV, A/C, 3 months Parbold parts & labour warranty. Part exchange considered **£5395**

54 **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 7 SEATER,** midnight blue, 66,000 miles, full MoT, central locking, CD player, A/C, 2 keys **£1995**

53 **FORD FUSION 1.4,** finished in sage metallic, 5dr hatchback, full MoT, 3 months Parbold parts and labour warranty, low insurance, 2 keys, superb condition, multi CD, Ford alloys **£1795**

56 **NISSAN MICRA INITIA** finished in coral blue metallic, previously supplied by ourselves, travelled only 41,000 miles from new, full service history with this vehicle, full 12 months MoT, single CD player, low insurance **£2795**

54 **NISSAN ALMERA,** long MoT, only group 5 insurance, 2 owners, 67,000 miles, remote locking, CD player **£1495**

56 **CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI DIESEL,** in silver, FSH, full 12 months MoT, 2 owners from new, remote central locking, low insurance, only group 5, superb economy, PAS, velour cloth trim, MPV 5 seater **£2995**

58 **FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE SPECIAL EDITION DIESEL,** full Ford service history, 2 owners, full 12 mth MoT, £30 road tax per annum, multi CD, electric windows, low insurance only group 3, 3 months parbold parts and labour warranty **£3995**

56 **NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MODEL 5-DR HATCHBACK,** in intense blue, 49,000 miles, 2 keys, A/C, Multi CD, service history, full MoT **£3595**

07 **NISSAN NOTE ACENTA** finished in cafe latte, Full Nissan Service History, full 12 months MoT, Nissan alloys, electric windows & mirrors, A/C, charcoal grey velour trim, immaculate inside & out, 6 months Parbold engine and gearbox warranty **£3395**

59 **NISSAN MICRA PURE DRIVE N-TEC 5DR,** finished in blade silver, Nissan alloy wheels, Nissan rear eyebrow spoiler, full Nissan service history, A/C, SAT NAV, electric windows front and rear, 2 keys, full 12 months MoT, 6 months Parbold engine and gearbox warranty, usual refinements **£3995**

05 **RENAULT MEGANE DIESEL CONVERTIBLE,** just had MoT, 2 keys, Renault alloy wheels, remote locking, service history, electric windows, power assisted steering **£1995**

08 **CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDI DIESEL,** finished in star silver metallic, special edition desire model, FSH, mpv 5 seater, 2 keys, full 12 months MoT, 3 months Parbold parts and labour warranty, electric windows& mirrors , A/C, CD player, grey cloth trim **£3795**

07 **NISSAN NOTE,** cheapest in town, in silver, SE model, Nissan alloys, CD player, elec windows & mirrors, service history, remote locking, 2 keys, high mileage hence **£1695**

P/X TO CLEAR

03 **FORD KA** in red, 10 months MoT, group 2 insurance, power steering **£695**

AUTOMATICS

07 **TOYOTA YARIS 5-DR AUTOMATIC,** finished in kingfisher blue, FSH, full MOT, 3 months Parbold parts and labour warranty, two keys, colour coded mirrors, Toyota service history **£3895**

05 **VW POLO AUTOMATIC 5-DR,** finished in blade silver metallic, VW alloy wheels, CD player, central locking, PAS, FSH, full 12 months MOT **£2795**

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AUTOMATICS	CASH PRICE	MONTHLY PRICE*
56 BMW M-SPORT 3.0 DIESEL 5-DR, 69k, FSH, black	£9995	£209
60 FORD FIESTA 1.4 AUTO, 25k, 1 owner, FSH, met blue	£7795	£173
61 TOYOTYA AYGO GO! 1.0 PETROL, FDSH, 37k, 1 owner, grey	£6295	£139
10 FIAT PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA, only 7k, silver, FSH, 2 Keys	£4995	£99
09 KIA CEED 1.6 AUTO 5-DR, 30k, blue, FSH, 2 Keys	£5495	£104
57 KIA CEED ESTATE 1.6 PETROL, FSH, black, 61k	£5995	£125
57 FIAT PUNTO 1.4 AUTO PETROL, 55k , purple, recently serviced	£3095	£64
10 VW GOLF 1.6 DIESEL, FSH, £30 Road Tax, 70 MPG, 1 prev owner	£8995	£186
59 VW PASSAT 2L DIESEL, 37K miles, 1 owner, FSH	£7895	£162
60 VW POLO 1.2 PETROL, in black, excellent condition, 12 mths MOT, 19k	£7795	£161
12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 PETROL 5-DR, FDSH, silver, fantastic cond.	£6995	£146
58 FIAT 500 1.2 3-DR, white, top spec, 33k, beautiful	£6495	£135
61 HYUNDAI IIO 1.2 PETROL, FDSH, 6K only, 1 owner, silver	£6295	£139
10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 5-DR PETROL, 22k, FSH, blue	£5895	£125
61 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 PETROL 5-DR, 16k, FSH, met blue	£5195	£90
10 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 DIESEL, black, 65k	£5195	£109
13 SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 5-DR, 3k, FSH, in red	£4795	£98
59 CITROEN C3 1.1 PETROL, 24k, black, FSH, mint condition	£4395	£92
59 CITROEN C2 1.4, red, 10,000 miles, 1 previous owner, FSH	£3995	£83
09 FIAT PANDA 1.1 PETROL 5-DR, 22k, p/s/history	£3795	£73
57 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 PETROL 3-DR, 47K, FSH, silver	£2995	£63
56 KIA PICANTO 1.0 PETROL 5-DR, black, 57,000 miles	£2495	£125
05 FORD FOCUS 1.4 PETROL, 70k, silver	£2695	ASK
55 DAIHATSU SIRION 1.0 5-DR, 50k, in SILVER	£2495	ASK
52 VOLVO V40 2.0 DIESEL, 111k, FSH	£2995	N/A

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1136544

SEAT is marching in on the fast estate territory dominated by Ford and Skoda

SEAT team launch estate

By **Ollie Cowan**

SEAT is following Ford, VW and Skoda into the world of practically–minded performance cars by launching its first ever fast estate model.

The SEAT Leon ST Cupra has the same 280bhp engine and six–speed gearbox as its hatchback sibling, but despite all the extra luggage room it's only two tenths of a second slower in the dash from 0 to 60mph.

It goes on sale here in March, with prices due to be announced in the next few weeks.

AUTO EVOLVE

by Steve Newman

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CAR OF THE WEEK

05 VOLVO S40 SE 2.0 DIESEL 6 SPEED, in met blue, black leather, PAS, e/windows, remote locking, A/C, ABS, alloys, 71k, outstanding condition **£4,295**

52 MINI COOPER 1.6 5 SPEED in Jet black with white roof, electric pan roof, ½ leather, PAS, e/ws, r/locking, ABS..... **£2,695**

58 SUZUKI SX-4 1600cc 5-dr, met black, PAS, e/windows, ABS, CD, alloys, A/C **£4,495**

57 RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIQUE 2.0i AUTO (New Shape) met black, ½ leather, sat nav, climate, bluetooth, FSH **£3,695**

55 SAAB 9-3 AERO 2.0 TURBO HIRSCH PERFORMANCE, in met silver, PAS, e/windows, ABS, A/C, r/locking, alloys **£2,995**

55 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTO 5-dr, 53,000 miles, PAS, A/C, e/windows, r/locking, CD **£2,895**

07 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB 5-dr, met blue, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, A/C, 90k **£2,695**

56 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE ESTATE, met silver, pan roof, A/C, ABS, service history, alloys, 53k **£2,695**

05 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-dr, met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, alloys, s/history **£2,595**

53 TOYOTA AVENSIS T4 1.8 5-dr, met blue, A/C, sat nav, alloys, FSH, remote locking, CD Player **£2,195**

56 PEUGEOT 1007 1.4, 5 Speed, e/sliding doors, met blue, e/w, c/locking, a/con, 59,000 miles **£2,295**

51 MERCEDES-BENZ C180 AUTO, in met silver, PAS, A/C, e/windows, remote locking, alloys, pan roof **£2,195**

01 (Y) VW BEETLE 1.6 5 SPEED, Dark Blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, 2 lady owners **£1,995**

04 VAUXHALL VECTRA ESTATE LS 2.2 5 SPEED, in met blue, PAS, e/windows, remote locking, A/C, CD, alloys **£1,695**

04 FIAT PUNTOACTIVE 1200 SPORT 3-dr, (5 Speed) met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, alloys **£1,395**

01 (X) VW GOLF 1.6 SE 5-dr, met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, alloys, s/history **£1,395**

52 FORD FOCUS GHIA SALOON 1.6, 5 Speed, met silver, leather trim, alloys, CD **£1,295**

4X4

06 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.7 TDI S 7 SEATER, black, 6 Speed, A/C, ABS, s/steps, alloys, s/history, lady owned **£8,995**

V LANDROVER FREELANDER 1.8 HARDBACK 2-Dr, red, PAS, e/w, alloys, detachable top **£1,795**

MPVs

57 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE (6 Speed) Crystal blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, cruise, alloys **£2,295**

06 RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DIESEL 5 SPEED, met black, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, A/C, 1 owner **£2,295**

04 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 16v DESIGN (7 SEATER) met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, ABS **£2,295**

03 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELEGANCE 2.2, met red, e/roof, alloys, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, 7 seater **£1,795**

DIESELS

10 VW PASSAT HI LINE 2.0 TDI DSG AUTO, met blue, leather, sat nav, s/history, h/miles **£5,995**

11 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6 DIESEL, met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, 1 owner, h/miles **£4,995**

07 VAUXHALL VECTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.9 DIESEL (6SPEED) in met red, PAS, e/windows, remote locking, ABS, A/C, 70k **£2,995**

54 RENAULT MODUS 1.5 DIESEL 5-dr, met red, A/C, ABS, pan roof, alloys, service history **£2,295**

54 RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE DIESEL, met blue, ½ leather, A/C, e/windows, c/locking, CD **£1,895**

54 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1.9 DIESEL (6 SPEED) met blue, PAS, A/C, e/windows, r/locking, alloys **£1,895**

54 VAUXHALL VECTRA ENERGY 1.9 DIESEL, 150 bhp, 6 Speed, met blue, alloys, a/con, service history **£1,695**

54 HYUNDAI ELANTRA DIESEL 2.0 HATCHBACK, metallic silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, c/locking **£1,395**

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List Price £22965
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14 Plate Vauxhall Insignia New Shape 2.0 CDTi SRi Nav EcoFlex 5dr Hatch

• 17025 miles • 18" Alloy Wheels • Satellite Navigation System • DAB Radio • Bluetooth • Colour Touch Screen • Cruise Control • Leather Steering Wheel • Climate Control • Tyre Pressure Monitoring System • Front Fog Lights • Tinted Rear Windows

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ONLY PER MONTH £119

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Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £119
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,140
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

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60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
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Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,740
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5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £69

Cash Price..... £4,140
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60 Monthly Payments of ... £69
Interest Charges..... 0%
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Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £79
Interest Charges..... 0%
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10 PLATE

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ONLY PER MONTH £89

Cash Price..... £5,340
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £89
Interest Charges..... 0%
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PEUGEOT 207

10 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £99

Cash Price..... £5,940
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £99
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £5,940
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12 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £109

Cash Price..... £6,540
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £109
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £6,540
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HYUNDAI i10 Style

12 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £115

Cash Price..... £6,900
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £115
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £6,900
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FIAT 500 POP

62 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £129

Cash Price..... £7,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £129
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £7,740
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

VAUXHALL ASTRA

61 PLATE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £159

Cash Price..... £9,540
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £159
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £9,540
0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

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2011 REG

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT NO INTEREST

ONLY PER MONTH £179

Cash Price..... £10,740
Deposit..... £0
60 Monthly Payments of ... £179
Interest Charges..... 0%
Total Amount Payable..... £10,740
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2011 FIESTA 1.25 EDGE in white, A/C, CD, alloys, 39,000 miles, in showroom condition, low tax and insurance. ..... **WAS £6,995 NOW £5,995**

2011 51 FORD KA EDGE Met Black, only 29,000 miles, 1 owner, ideal 1st car, low tax & insurance..... **Was £5,494 Now £4,995**

2010 60 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi ZETEC 5 door Hatch, Only 49,000 miles, Silver, AC, CD, Alloys, Pristine **Was £7,995 Now £7,495**

2010 10 PEUGEOT 107 3 door Urban Move Only 21,000 miles, electric Windows, Central Locking, Only £20 per Year Road Tax, Low Insuranc ..... **Was £5,495 Now £4,495**

2010 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE Metallic Grey, 49,000 miles, AC, CD,Fantastic..... **Was £4,495 Now £3,995**

09 59 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 VISIA Met Black, Only 29,000 miles, FSH, this car ..... is like new **Was £5,495 Now £4,995**

09 09 MINI 1 SALT PACK AC, CD, Alloys, Metallic Black, 54,000 miles, Fabulous ..... **WAS £6,495 NOW £5,995**

09 09 FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC, 5 door, Metallic Red, only 31,000 miles, AC, CD, Alloys Ideal First Car..... **WAS £6,495 NOW £5,495**

08 57 CITROEN PICASSO C4 VTR, Metallic Red, AC, CD, Alloys, FSH ..... **Was £5,995 Now £4,995**

08 57 FORD FUSION 1.4 ZETEC, 5 door, Silver, only 31,000 miles, AC, CD, Alloys, Fabulous ..... **WAS £4,995 NOW £3,695**

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 T3 Met Blue, 5 Door, AC, CD, Alloys, FSH, ideal 1st car, Low Tax & Insurance.... **Was £4,995 Now £4,495**

08 08 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 5 door, Metallic Grey, only 39,000 miles, AC, CD, Alloys, Fantastic ..... **Was £4,495 Now £3,995**

08 08 GRANDE PUNTO, 5 door, 1.2 Active, AC, CD, 41,000 miles, Metallic Blue, Ideal First Car, Road Tax & Insurance ..... **WAS £3,995 NOW £3,495**

07 57 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE in silver, only 44,000 miles, ideal family vehicle ..... **WAS £5,495 NOW £4,495**

07 57 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 DESIGN in silver, A/C, CD, alloys, tinted glass, stunnin..... **WAS £3,995 NOW £2,995**

06 56 VW GOLF 1.4 FSi 5 door, Silver, only 41,000 miles, full service history, stunning..... **Was £5,495 Now £4,995**

06 56 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN in red, only 37,000 miles, £30 per year road tax, group 1 insurance, ideal first car. ..... **WAS £4,495 NOW £3,995**

06 56 NISSAN NOTE 1.4 SE AUTOMATIC 59,000 miles, Champagne, AC/CD, Alloys, Fantastic..... **Was £4,495 Now £3,995**

05 55 MERCEDES ML 320 SE CDi Silver, only 81,000 miles, FSH, AC, CD, Alloys, full leather, pristine..... **Was £12,995 Now £11,995**

05 55 TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 COLOUR COLLECTION, 5dr, Sky Blue Metallic, only 53,000 miles, AC, CD, Alloys Exceptional ..... **Was £4,495 Now £3,695**

05 05 MAZDA 2 CAPELLA 1.4, only 41,000 miles, 1 owner, A/C, CD, fabulous..... **Was £3,495 Now £2,995**

04 54 CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 door, Grey, 33k, Fantastic, Full Elec Pack ..... **Was £2,995 Now £2,495**

04 54 PEUGEOT 206 1.9 HDi Silver, Only 33,000 miles, 1 Owner, Pristine ..... **Was £2,995 Now £2,495**

04 VW BEETLE Met Blue, AC, CD, Fantastic. **Was £3,495 Now £2,995**

04 04 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX 5-DR in metallic black, A/C, electric windows, fanatic ..... **WAS £2,495 NOW £1,995**

04 04 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 DESIRE, Skyblue Metallic, 76,000 miles, AC,CD, Fabulous ..... **WAS £2,495 NOW £1,995**

02 51 MICRA 1LTR S in Silver, only 39,000 miles, FSH, ideal 1st car ..... **Was £2,495 Now £1,995**

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*Offer applies to the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS with metallic paint and a spare steel wheel only, while stocks last. Optional specification cannot be added on this offer. Offer available on new retail orders placed by the 31st March 2015. ^Up to 3 years/10,000 miles per annum (whichever comes first) when purchased with Solutions Personal Contract Plan. Excess mileage charges of 4.4p per mile apply. Retail sales only. Offer available for vehicles ordered by 31st March 2015 and delivered by 30th June 2015 from participating retailers. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Available to 18s and over. Subject to availability. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Prices and specification accurate at time of print. Freepost ŠKODA Finance. Model shown is ŠKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS including metallic paint £9,595 OTR.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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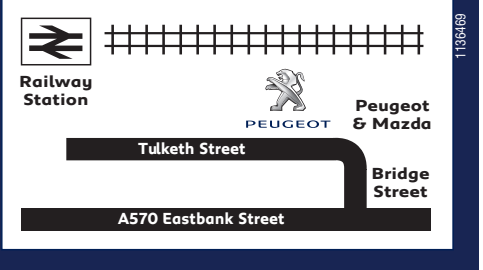

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£499* DEPOSIT **£129* PER MONTH**

CORSA 1.2 STING 3DR FINANCE EXAMPLE:			
Vehicle price	£8654.64	Total charge for credit	£1318.01
Deposit	£499	Total amount payable	£9972.65
Amount financed	£8155.64	APR	6.9%
35 Monthly payments	£129.99	Miles per annum	6,000
Optional final payment	£4924		

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£499* DEPOSIT **£149* PER MONTH**

CORSA 1.2 EXCITE 3DR FINANCE EXAMPLE:			
Vehicle price	£10692.43	Optional final payment	£5075
Deposit	£499	Total charge for credit	£631.22
Vauxhall finance deposit allowance	£500	Total amount payable	£11323.65
Amount financed	£9693.43	APR	2.9%
35 Monthly payments	£149.99	Miles per annum	6,000

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Deposit	£499	Total charge for credit	£753.13
Vauxhall finance deposit allowance	£600	Total amount payable	£13176.65
Amount financed	£11324.52	APR	2.9%
35 Monthly payments	£164.99	Miles per annum	6,000

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£499* DEPOSIT **£189* PER MONTH**

CORSA 1.2 SE 3DR FINANCE EXAMPLE:			
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Deposit	£499	Total amount payable	£12639.65
Amount financed	£10523.09	APR	6.9%
35 Monthly payments	£189.99	Miles per annum	6,000
Optional final payment	£5491		

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*Participating Retailers only. £750 Free Fuel offer not available on Corsa Excite; Astra 5dr / Sports Tourer Design, Tech Line and Tech Line GT; Mokka Tech Line; Zafra (classic) models or Ampera. £500 of the Free Fuel will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on eligible new vehicle orders from 27 December 2014 to 12 January 2015. This offer is redeemable at your local participating Vauxhall Retailer against a selection of Genuine or Approved Vauxhall Accessories. This does not apply to factory options. 20% offer applies to fully fitted and painted (where applicable) RRP inc VAT. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers subject to availability. Offer valid until 12 January 2015. All finance is subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Models shown for illustration purposes only. *We will beat any like for like quote on any new or used car, written quotation required.

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10 Reg Ford Ka Style Plus Blue 25173 Miles	£4999	£4899	£100
60 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hatch 1.2i Energy A/C Silver 41929 Miles	£5799	£4999	£800
10 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hatch 1.2 16v Energy Silver Lake 29261 Miles	£5499	£5299	£200
59 Reg Ford Fiesta Edge TDCi 68 Black 66847 Miles	£5699	£5299	£400
60 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 5dr Hatch 1.3 CDTi 75 Energy A/C Ecoflex Silver 36169 Miles	£6499	£5499	£1000
58 Reg MINI One Silver 39386 Miles	£5999	£5799	£200
60 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 5dr 1.7CDTi 110ps Exclusiv A/C Auto Pepper Dust 44004 Miles	£7499	£5999	£1500
12 Reg Chevrolet Cruze LS Grey 11010 Miles	£6999	£6499	£500
61 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hatch 1.2i VVT Excite A/C Technical Grey 19502 Miles	£7999	£6499	£1500
63 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hatch 1.0 S Ecoflex Sovereign Silver 7569 Miles	£7999	£6999	£1000
63 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hatch 1.2 S Glacier White 7242 Miles	£7999	£6999	£1000
11 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5dr Hatch 1.4i VVT Excite Power Red 31249 Miles	£7499	£7299	£200
11 Reg Vauxhall Astra Sport Tourer 1.4i 16v Exclusiv Technical Grey 31348 Miles	£7499	£7299	£200
62 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5dr Hatch 1.4i 16v Active Flame Red 10391 Miles	£8999	£8699	£300
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61 Reg Vauxhall Insignia Hatch 2.0CDTi 160 Exclusiv Nav Ecoflex Grey 45507 Miles	£9999	£8999	£1000
11 Reg Toyota Urban Cruiser D-4D Blue 20390 Miles	£9999	£9799	£200
14 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5dr 1.6i VVT 115ps Design Silver 19296 Miles	£10499	£9999	£500
63 Reg Vauxhall Adam Hatch 3dr 1.4 100ps Slam James Blonde 11432 Miles	£11499	£9999	£1500
13 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 5dr Hatch 2.0CDTi 160 SRi Silver 35364 Miles	£10999	£10499	£500
13 Reg Vauxhall Astra Coupe GTC 1.6 Turbo 180 Sport Technical Grey 4134 Miles	£12499	£11299	£1200
63 Reg Vauxhall Insignia Hatch 1.8i VVT 140 Design Nav Silver 17448 Miles	£11999	£11499	£500
61 Reg BMW 318i Exclusive Edition Grey 37358 Miles	£11999	£11799	£200
64 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Tech Line NAV Black 2457 Miles	£13499	£11999	£1500
63 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5dr 1.7CDTi 130ps Elite Ecoflex S/s Grey 15191 Miles	£12499	£12299	£200
63 Reg Vauxhall Astra GTC Coupe 2.0 CDTi 165ps SRi S/s Yellow 15369 Miles	£13499	£12499	£1000
11 Reg BMW 318i Exclusive Edition Black 15802 Miles	£12999	£12799	£200
63 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5dr 1.7CDTi 130ps SRi Ecoflex Red 7034 Miles	£13499	£12799	£700
14 Reg Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 1.8i VVT 140 Exclusiv Black 6715 Miles	£13499	£13299	£200
14 Reg Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi 130 SE Silver 12960 Miles	£15499	£14999	£500
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60 Mercedes A160 Se 5 Dr

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- Air Con
- CD Player

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10 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 Cdti Elite 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- Leather
- Alloys
- Sat Nav

NO DEPOSIT £42 A WEEK

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12 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5 Dr

- 22000 Miles
- Priv Glass
- Alloys
- CD Player

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60 Jaguar Xf 3.0 Diesel Luxury Premium

- 1 Owner
- FSH
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09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Active 3 Dr

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- CD Player
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58 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Tdci Zetec 5 Dr

- Upgraded Alloys
- Air Con
- CD Player

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59 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Active 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- 49000 Miles
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £27 A WEEK

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61 Peugeot 207 1.4 3 Dr

- 24000 Miles
- Air Con
- CD Player
- 1 Owner

NO DEPOSIT £29 A WEEK

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12 Citreon C1 1.0 Vtr 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £29 A WEEK

Only £5,995

59 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Sxi 5 Dr

- 36000 Miles
- Alloys
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £29 A WEEK

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60 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5 Dr

- Upgraded Alloys
- Air Con
- FSH

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

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10 Ford Mondeo Tdci Ghia 5 Dr

- Choice of Colours
- FSH
- Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

From £6,995

10 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Estate

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Air Con
- CD Player

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11 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Style 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £34 A WEEK

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10 Ford Mondeo Tdci Estate

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £37 A WEEK

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10 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5 Door Auto

- FSH
- 49000 Miles
- Alloys
- CD Player

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60 Pegeot 308 1.6 Hdi Millesim 5 Dr

- 33000 Miles
- Alloys
- CD Player
- Air Con

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60 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Breeze

- 34000 Miles
- Alloys
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT NO DEPOSIT

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- Alloys
- CD Player
- Air Con
- CD Player

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11 Fiat 500 Lounge

- 34000 Miles
- Alloys
- Pan Roof
- Low Insurance

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57 Bmw 118 Diesel Es 3 Dr

- 59000 Miles
- FSH
- Air Con
- CD Player

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10 Vw Golf 1.6 Tdi 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Alloys
- CD Player

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11 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti SE

- 1 Owner
- 1/2 Leather
- Alloys
- FSH

NO DEPOSIT £42 A WEEK

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10 Peugeot 3008 1.6 Hdi Sport

- 49000 Miles
- FSH
- Alloys
- Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £43 A WEEK

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61 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Sri 5 Dr

- 19000 Miles
- Alloys
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

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61 Renault Grande Scenic Diesel Tom Tom

- 1 Owner
- 7 Seater
- Sat Nav
- Leather

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

Only £8,995

09 Lexus Is220 Diesel Se

- 65000 Miles
- FSH
- Alloys
- Air Con

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

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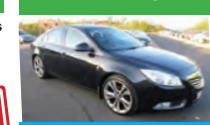
61 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Sri 5 Dr



- Upgraded
- Alloys
- Air Con
- CD Player

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

Only £8,995

09 Nissan Qashqai Dci Acenta 5 Dr

- FSH
- Alloys
- Air Con
- 42000 Miles

NO DEPOSIT £44 A WEEK

Only £8,995

61 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- 44000 Miles
- FSH
- Air Con

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59 Peugoet 308 1.6 Se Convertible

- 28000 Miles
- Alloys
- Air Con
- FSH

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11 Mazda Mx5 Se Convertible,

- Hard Top
- Leather
- Alloys
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10 Bmw 116 Diesel Se 5 Dr

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Alloys
- CD Player

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10 Audi A3 1.6 TDi SE Sportback

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Alloys
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09 Audi A3 Convertible 1.6 Sport

- 44000 Miles
- Upgraded Alloys
- Power Hood

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61 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Se 4 Door

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Alloys
- Park Sensors

GREAT SPEC! NO DEPOSIT

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62 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 Dci Accenta

- 1 Owner
- 21000 Miles
- Priv Glass
- Alloys

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £12,995

59 Mercedes C220 Cdi Sport Auto 4 Dr

- 58000 Miles
- FMBH
- 1/2 Leather
- AMG Alloys

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £14,495

60 Range Rover Sport 3.0 Td V6 Hse

- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Alloys
- Sat Nav

NEW IN NO DEPOSIT

Only £29,995

12 Jaguar Xk 5.0 Convertible Portfolio

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- Leather
- Sat Nav
- Fully Loaded

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2010 (60)	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4i 16v DESIGN MPV 5-dr,** gold, 23k, alloys, parking sensors	£5,495
2004 (54)	**BMW 520i SE 4-dr,** grey, leather, BMW I-Drive system, s/history	£4,495
2003 (53)	**AUDI A4 1.8T SPORT 2-dr CONVERTIBLE,** leather, 66k, PAS, remote locking, BOSE sound system	£4,495
2006 (55)	**AUDI A3 2.0 TDi SE 3-DR,** Diesel, black, leather, FSH	£4,495
2006 (56)	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTI 16v DESIGN 2-dr CONVERTIBLE, Diesel,** silver, alloys, ½ leather, 72k	£3,995
2005 (55)	**SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 VVT + 3-dr,** silver, 80k, alloys, CD, e/windows	£3,995
2005 (55)	**BMW 330D SE 4-DR,** Diesel, leather, NAV, cruise	£3,995
2003 (53)	**BMW 320D SPORT ESTATE,** Diesel, silver, full M-SPORT suede int, 18" alloys, s/history	£3,695
2008	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i 16V DESIGN 5-DR,** black, 63K, leather	£3,495
2004	**BMW 320 2.0D SPORT 4-dr,** Diesel, grey, full heated leather, s/history, great MPG	£3,495
2008 (08)	**FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ELEGANZA AUTO 5-dr,** blue, 37k, s/history, r/locking	£3,495
2006 (06)	**MITSUBISHI COLT 1.5 Di-D CZ2 Auto 5-Dr,** Diesel, red, 14k only	£3,495
2005 (55)	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 T SRI MPV 5-dr,** black, FSH, alloys, 7 seats, CD, alloys	£3,495
2006 (06)	**MAZDA 5 1.8 TS MPV 5-dr,** blue, 7 seater, PAS, Radio/CD, recent MOT	£2,995
2004 (54)	**SEAT ALTEA 2.0 FSI SPORT 5-dr,** (6 speed) grey, FSH, sports model, alloys	£2,995
2008 (08)	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4S,** met grey	£2,650
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Weather the winner as game ends in stalemate

Mossley 1 Burscough 1

BOTH teams struggled to play any decent football in a match dictated by strong winds, sleet and a heavy pitch.

Burscough enjoyed most of the possession in the opening half with midfielder Eddie Toner dictating the pace of the game and the Linnets went ahead on 35 minutes.

Wade Joyce was brought down just outside the penalty box and skipper Paul Williams fired the free–kick low to the near post. The ball met post and Andy Farrimond's gloves simultaneously before finding the back of the Mossley net.

Mossley stepped up the pace after the break and scoring efforts were denied by blocks and saves until the 72nd minute when Sam Robinson was upended 20 yards from goal. Kyle McGonigle blasted the free–kick through the Burscough wall and despite keeper Calvin Hare getting full hands to the ball the shot proved too strong for him to keep out.

Mossley had a chance to take the lead when Robinson raced through and collided with the advancing Burscough keeper outside the box. With Hare on the floor the ball broke to Arron Hevingham 30 yards from goal but, with the net unguarded, the midfielder elected to pass to Ahamdi who was closed down and the visitors scrambled the ball to safety.

The best chance of the closing stages fell to Mossley as substitute Fish teed up Carroll whose shot few narrowly over the bar.

Jordan Williams scores for Burscough. Picture by Julia Urwin.

Linnets crash out of county cup

Southport 5
Burscough 1

BURSCOUGH were decisively beaten in the Lancashire Senior Cup by near neighbours Burscough.

The match that must have brought back memories for Southport manager Gary Brabin who played in the Burscough side of 2006–7.

The disparity in quality told on the night with Port scoring three in the first twenty minutes.

Daniel Lloyd–Weston was reinstalled in goal for Southport to the side after David Raya Martin's departure but he had little to do as his colleagues ran riot at the other end with goals by John Marsden, Amadou Bakayoko, Richard Brodie, a penalty after Bakayoko was felled by Paul Williams, and Danny Hattersley.

Jordan Williams pulled one back for Burscough in the 55th minute but Marsden made it five to ensure Southport's place in the semi–final when they will host Skelmersdale United in February.

Stormy Corner lives up to its name

Skelmersdale United 2
Buxton 3

SKELMERSDALE United's Stormy Corner ground certainly lived up to its name as the hardy spectators were "treated to" all four weather seasons in one day, sunshine, hail, heavy rain and a strong gale blowing the length of the pitch, *report Neil Leatherbarrow*.

The crowd were entertained by five goals by a pair of teams that considering the conditions managed some excellent football.

Skelmersdale took the lead, Connor McCarthy striking from an acute angle after a clever bit of footwork on the left–hand side of the Buxton penalty area.

The first–half wind was a big advantage to Buxton and it played a part in their equaliser in the 21st minute, though credit has to be given for a superbly floated cross from Craig King that dropped perfectly onto Ash Palmer's head in the Skelmersdale penalty area.

Buxton then won a succession of corners but Skem were holding on well in the face of the storm, until Greg Young headed home in the 36th minute.

It could have been worse, but stand–in goalkeeper Andy Paxton pulled off a magnificent diving save from Liam Hardy right on the 45th minute.

Skem had the wind in their favour after half–time, but in the 54th minute a back pass took a dreadful bounce as Paxton went to kick it clear and the ball ran to Ash Burbeary in a wide position, from where it required an excellent cross to give Hardy the chance to make it 3–1.

Skelmersdale came back well and within three minutes pulled it back to 3–2 after the ball fed to Ben Tollitt on the left, he dribbled past right–back Alex Byrne but was tripped, leaving Mitchley to fire home the resulting penalty.

The latter stages became very scrappy, though that was hardly surprising as the weather became horrendous, to the extent that the referee would have been justified in taking both teams off the pitch at one stage.

For Skelmersdale Mitchley was fractions off converting from a Peter Wylie cross and Kenny Strickland had a free–kick saved by Buxton goalkeeper Arron Jameson.

Skelmersdale hadn't played badly at all, it just wasn't their day.

They face the long trip to King's Lynn on Saturday.

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SKELMERSDALE
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